

Hagnauer: Post not insurance

By Dennis Grubaugh
and Terry Hillig
Staff writers

EDWARDSVILLE — Nelson Hagnauer said his quest for appointment to the county transit district board is not an attempt to ensure his political longevity if the Madison County Board chairmanship later becomes an elected post.

On Wednesday, Hagnauer plans to ask the county board to appoint him to succeed William Haine on the county's transit district board. Haine resigned as transit board chairman after seven years to become state's

attorney Dec. 1.

Appointment to the transit board would not automatically mean chairmanship of it, said Hagnauer, a Democrat from Granite City. That decision would rest with other members of the transit board.

"I just want to try to continue what the board has done and, as I've said many times, they have done an outstanding job," Hagnauer said. "I want to continue some of the things Bill (Haine) has started," he said.

"It's not like I'm not going to know anything about the transit district," he said. "Bill's kept me well informed, and so has the executive director (Jerry Kane)."

Hagnauer said that past discussions of changing the county board chairmanship to an elected post had no bearing on his plans for the transit position.

"This is not a move in any way whatsoever in case I would have to run at large," he said.

Hagnauer has opposed countywide election of the chairman in the past. In the fall of 1987, the Madison County Republican Central Committee and some Democrats circulated petitions to get the election issue on the ballot. A lawsuit filed by key Democrats and the lack of the right number of petition sig-

(See HAGNAUER, Page 6A)

Earthquake relief gets local boost

By Andy Siering
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — A fund started by a local church and earmarked for Armenian earthquake relief had netted \$31,000 as of Friday. Two-thirds was from non-Armenians, said the church's pastor.

An earthquake of 6.9 intensity Dec. 7 decimated several cities in the northern part of Soviet Armenia, causing heavy loss of life.

The Rev. Nerses Manoglian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, said checks were sent Friday to the Armenian Apostolic Church of America headquarters in New York City to be forwarded to the Armenian Relief Society headquarters in Boston.

Manoglian said a dinner held last Sunday at the church's com-

munity center brought in more than \$9,000 from the local Armenian community. The rest came from area churches, individuals and students. He said churches had been particularly generous.

"God's grace was working for us," Manoglian said. "We were not left alone in our bereavement."

He expressed gratitude but said much is still needed.

People wishing to contribute should make checks payable to St. Gregory's and send them to: Magnus Bank of Granite City, Colonial Banking Center, P.O. Box Y, Granite City, Ill. 62040.

The earthquake killed an estimated 50,000 people, according to revised figures, and left homeless several hundred thousand more. Early estimates of the dead ran as high as 100,000.

Carl S. Bauman of University City, Mo., a retired medical

supplies salesman, has donated 13,000 disposable syringes. Relief officials in Armenia have said there is an acute shortage of syringes for administering medicines.

On Friday, Richard Pack, a sales representative for a medical supply firm in St. Louis, donated 2,000 kits for administering intravenous fluids and 29 used electronic pumps for controlling intravenous flow.

The Tri-City Chapter of the American Red Cross has received only \$25 earmarked for Armenian relief, a spokesman said.

Homeless Armenians have had to contend with freezing temperatures. Earl Harris, proprietor of Earl's Sports in Granite City, is donating several cartons of miscellaneous clothing.

Harris has contacted seven or eight manufacturers with whom

he does business to try and persuade them to contribute goods. So far, Harris said, two have responded.

Russell Athletic Co. of Alexander City, Ala., is donating sweat pants and sweat shirts, Harris said, and Steve Cohen of American Camper in Kansas City is sending five tents.

A trucking company, Pacific Intermountain Express, is donating free transportation of the Russell goods to Miami, where a plane provided by Pan-Aviation Inc. is waiting to fly the goods overseas.

The Armenian Apostolic Church of America has declared a 40-day period of mourning ending Jan. 15, 1989. Members of the denomination have been asked to curtail holiday parties and shopping, Manoglian said.

Calendar not meant politically — Vale

By Mike Myers
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — City employees found something extra in their paychecks last week, but not all were pleased.

A calendar with an election message for Treasurer Gail Valle was placed in all of the city employee pay envelopes sent out by the Treasurer's Office.

Lucretia Wright, president of Local 3405 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said the action is a "no-no" and a number of people have complained.

"It's just not right," Wright said. "If you do it for one you've got to do it for all."

Using your position to further your political career — it's just taboo.

"It wasn't done politically," Valle said. "I didn't even think about that until after I'd done it. I didn't even think about it being political. If I had, I wouldn't have. I should have thought first; it wasn't done politically."

Valle said only one person had said anything to her about it, but if she had it to do over, she wouldn't. Mayor Von Der Cruse said he found the calendar to be "just what I needed."

"Had the word election not been there, I don't think anyone would have had any problem."

"Doing it at this time might not have been the best thing to do. I'm sure everybody has an opinion, but I have no problem with it."

Cruse said he probably wouldn't have sent them himself, however. "She is a novice when it comes to politics and probably never had a thought that it's not felony or criminal offense — but it's just something you don't do," Cruse said.

Valle was appointed by Cruse to fill the treasurer's post in November 1987 when longtime incumbent Nick Petrillo died. This election will be her first.

District 9 will start DARE next semester

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — The first in a series of steps necessary to implement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in District 9 schools has already been taken.

Plans call for the program to be implemented during the second semester of this school year.

Two Granite City policemen recently underwent the four-hour, 1,200-question psychological examination administered to all DARE trainer candidates. They are sched-

uled to return for oral interviews on Monday.

"I will be notified after the oral interviews about their performance," Granite City Police Chief Jim Lengyel said.

He said Linda Lang, educational consultant for DARE, had already guaranteed two spaces for the officers in a two-week training session beginning Feb. 6.

Lengyel declined to name the two officers until he was certain both had successfully completed the program.

The cost of the DARE program is the officer's salary. Two officers are being trained in order to provide a back-up. Lengyel said the annual salary of the officer who will

serve as the full-time DARE trainer is \$35,379.

Granite City Aldermen Sharon Perjak, Judy Whitaker and Walter Milton also attended the meeting to discuss the city's part in the funding.

Perjak was concerned with what part of that cost the city would bear and that the school board had only committed to the program for one semester. She wanted a one-year commitment.

"This is intended as an ongoing program," Jolene Terrell, board president, said. "We would not have considered it for one semester."

(See DARE, Page 6A)



(Staff photo by Patrick Foley)
SHOOTING VICTIM Chris Voss, 15, covers his face as Granite City Fire Department paramedics prepare to transport him to St. Elizabeth Medical Center. He was admitted with a gunshot wound to his left leg.

Accidental shooting shuts down Illinois 3

GRANITE CITY — A portion of Illinois 3 was closed, and several police and emergency vehicles responded when a 15-year-old youth accidentally shot himself in the leg about 4 p.m. Thursday.

Christopher A. Voss, 15, of the 2200 block of Bryan Avenue, reportedly shot himself while he and another youth were firing a pistol beneath an overpass on Illinois 3. Voss was taken by ambulance to St. Elizabeth Medical Center, where he underwent surgery.

He was in stable condition Friday, a SEMC spokesman said.

The incident occurred on the east side of the overpass north of North Street.

When officers arrived at the scene, they reported finding Voss lying on the ground near the shoulder of the northbound

traffic lanes close to the overpass. Standing over him was a 14-year-old youth.

The victim and his friend originally offered conflicting stories and police were unsure, at first, where the shot had originated. During their investigation, police closed Illinois 3 at North Street to northbound traffic for about 40 minutes. Several emergency vehicles were also on the scene.

Police said the youths had been target shooting on a concrete pad just beneath the overpass when Voss accidentally shot himself while loading the weapon.

Detective Terry May reported finding a .22-caliber pistol in some weeds near the east side of the overpass. The incident remains under investigation.

Rea won't run again

By Valerie Evenden
Staff writer

PONTOON BEACH — Trustee Don Rea will not be a candidate for trustee in the April 4 election.

"Fellow board members and others interested, I do not intend to be a candidate in the April election," Rea said at the village board meeting.

Rea offered no explanation for not seeking reelection to the Village Board, of which he has been a member since 1973.

In addition to Rea's four-year seat on the village board, the terms of incumbent trustees Bob Abel, 4115 Breckenridge Lane, Robert E. Vincent, 6 Mimosa Court, and Carl Hackney, 813 East Chain of Rocks

Road, also expire.

Abel and Vincent, both candidates with the New Political Party, have obtained petitions.

Hackney, whose seat carries a two-year term, is expected to file for reelection, a village official said.

He was appointed to the board Aug. 11, 1987, to fill the unexpired term of Robert Biggs. Biggs resigned in July 1987.

Others who have obtained petitions are:

Jim Hill, 11 Iris Ave., Randall Preswood, 42 Georgetown Drive, and Dana Wallace, 18 Tulip Ave., all planning to file as independents; and Kevin Styanoff, 6 Pearl Court, who will file with the New Political Party.

Madison school tax levy rises sharply

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

MADISON — The Madison school board passed a tax levy Thursday night for fiscal year 1988-89 of 69 percent more than a year ago.

This year's estimated tax extension is \$985,684, more than \$405,000 higher than last year's actual extension of \$580,366.

District 12 Superintendent Dan Kostencki said the action is a necessity to protect the schools' financial structure. The district has been operating on a deficit budget for some time.

He said the primary reason for the increase is that District 12 has not been allowing a sufficient amount of taxes to cover its employee retirement costs during the

last few years. Kostencki said the increased rate total will be in a "permissible tax rate" level.

Kostencki said he does not yet know what the increase will mean to the average real estate taxpayer.

Last year, taxpayers paid — for the school district — a \$3.40 rate per \$100 of assessed property value. He said this consisted of \$1.75 for the education fund, 37.5 cents for operations, building and maintenance, 18 cents for transportation, 12.91 cents for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, 5 cents for fire prevention and safety, 11.74 cents for liability insurance (tort immunity), 41.03 cents for Social Security, 4 cents for special education and 35 cents for bonds and interest.

Actual new rates will be set in the spring after the district's new assessment total is determined. Principal increases are likely to occur in the education and retirement accounts, Kostencki said.

He said state legislation during the last few years has increased the amount required for employee retirement. The increase voted by the board is substantial due to the years it was not collected, he said.

The new \$985,684 tax levy allocates \$499,500 for education, \$101,250 for the building fund, \$34,000 for transportation, \$101,088 for IMRF, \$13,500 for fire prevention, \$74,290 for liability insurance, \$70,266 for Social Security, \$10,600 for special education and \$61,000 for bonds and interest, Kostencki said.

Pontoon Beach sells 9 acres on Illinois 111

By Valerie Evenden
Staff writer

PONTOON BEACH — A 9-acre tract of land on Illinois 111, owned by Equipment Co., St. Louis, was accepted Tuesday night by the Board of Trustees for a nine-acre tract of land in the 4100 block of Illinois 111.

The village-owned property has frontage on the east side of

111 and lies north of the Pontoon Beach Baptist Church and Kieselberg Lane (East Pontoon Road). The tract is farmland but is zoned commercial.

Crescent Co. was the sole bidder and under terms of the bid agreed to construct its own streets and sewers and provide water to the property without

(See PONTON, Page 6A)



Thursday, Dec. 19, 1963

About 300 people attended the Christmas concert of the Prather Elementary band. The mothers baked cookies which were served with coffee and milk to everyone attending.

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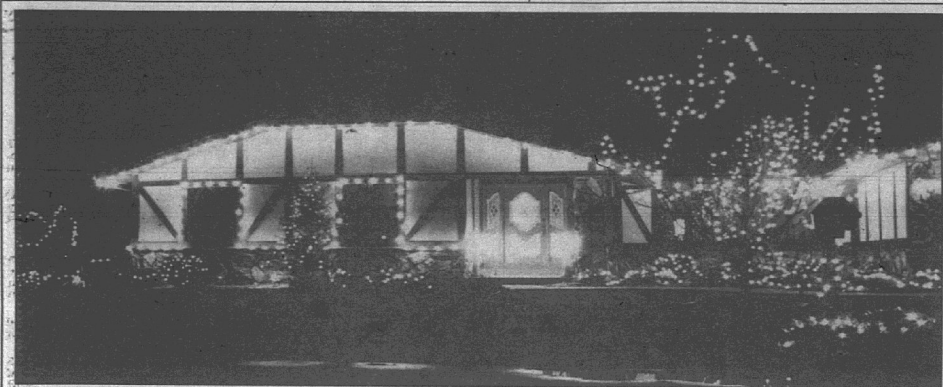
Deaths

Alpha Moore
Fairy Montgomery
Christina Yovonoff



Sounds of Christmas

Salvation Army volunteer bell ringers are stationed with the familiar red bellies at financial institutions, grocery stores and other locations in the Quad City area through Dec. 23. Donations to the annual Tree of Lights drive help more than 1,300 local needy families enjoy the Christmas season.



HOLIDAY DISPLAY: The home of Don and Rose Partney, 3 Thomas Court, is brightly illuminated with thousands of white bulbs. The lights outline the house in addition to

defining trees and shrubs in the front yard. Several other homes in the neighborhood are also decorated with seasonal displays.

(Staff photo by Patrick Foley)

GC library reference service for night owls

The Granite City Public Library has announced its participation in the Night Owl reference service.

Night Owl is an after-hours telephone reference service available between the hours of 9 p.m. and midnight Monday through Friday and from 5 p.m. until midnight on Saturday and Sunday.

With Night Owl, students may secure after-hours assistance with schoolwork. Others may use Night Owl to answer a wide variety of questions.

Questions recently asked Night

Questions recently asked Night Owl:
Diseases linked to asbestos; cost per year for housing a jail inmate; how Woody Guthrie died.

Owl include: Diseases linked to asbestos; cost per year for housing a jail inmate; how Woody Guthrie died — name of the disease; price of 3-cent 1939 World's Fair stamp; location in Scotland of U.S. naval submarine base; manufacturers of bathing cages; and word for "90 years old."

Night Owl is a cooperative venture among many Illinois

public libraries. The Granite City Public Library's participation is funded by the per capita grant from the State of Illinois.

Night Owl reference service is available now and will continue through June 30, 1989.

Night Owl can be reached by dialing 432-6241 during the hours listed above. Calls will be routed to the Arlington Heights Public Library at no charge to the local

caller.

Callers with questions that require detailed research will be referred to the local public library during its normal hours of operation.

Also new to the Granite City Public Library is a collection of Sams Photofacts donated by local resident Tom Green. Sams Photofacts have servicing information, including schematics, for televisions and other home electronics products. The collection covers the years 1946 to 1982, with a few gaps.

County Bar gives holiday food for needy families

For the seventh consecutive year, the Madison County Bar Association has donated \$3,000 to area crisis food centers to help defray the costs of providing food for needy families during the Christmas season.

The donations were made to the following agencies:

Protestant Welfare Association Inc. of Granite City;

Crisis Food Center of Alton;

To Hungry and Needy Kids (THANKS) of Edwardsville;

The Collinsville Ministerial Alliance; and,

A Highland relief service which wished to remain anonymous.

Three Santas touring Pontoon Beach Dec. 21

By Valerie Evenden
Staff writer

PONTON BEACH — Not one Santa Claus, but three jolly old gentlemen, will tour village streets greeting residents, starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, Mayor Glen Wilson announced this week.

The Santas will begin their appointed rounds from the Village Hall grounds, which have illuminated bushes and other exterior decorations.

The three will distribute Christmas candy to youngsters along their respective routes.

A total of 1,800 boxes of candy was purchased by village officials from the Kovach Candy Co., Granite City.

Last year, 1,700 boxes of goodies were handed out to children, according to Village Clerk Mary Warren.

Bob Vincent, Jack Merritt and Gary Rowden have volunteered to serve as village Santas this year, Warren said.

Each Santa will be escorted by an emergency vehicle with flashing lights, provided by the Long Lake Volunteer Fire Department, and a police car.

Also assisting with the candy distribution and visits at the homes of shut-ins will be members of the Village Board of Trustees.

The Village Hall is located at 3910 Illinois 111.



NEEDS A HOME: This 3 1/2-month-old mixed-breed female puppy is available for adoption at the APA Shelter, 5000 Old Alton Road.

Surprise pets not good for Christmas

Giving a pet to an unsuspecting child or family is not recommended by the Association for the Protection of Animals, according to member Margaret Fisk.

"A responsible adult in the family should be made aware of the giver's intentions before a pet is given as a gift," Fisk said; the family which receives

a pet as a gift should be willing to properly care for the pet.

A picture of the pet, or even a stuffed animal, may be given on Christmas in place of the live pet, which could be given later.

For more information, persons can call the APA shelter at 931-7030. Adoption hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.



(Staff photo by Patrick Foley)

WRAPPED UP IN THEIR WORK: Dottie Farrell, left, and Lynn Cuvar, both of Pontoon Beach, wrap toys for children in the Pontoon Beach area. Farrell began the toy drive for deserving children six years ago. About 179 children received Christmas gifts last year as the result of her and her friends' efforts. Tuesday, Dec. 20, is the cutoff for submitting prospective children's names for inclusion on this year's list, which already totals 163. Youngsters through age 18 are eligible. Donations of new or like-new toys and money are still needed to fill all of the requests.

Menus

Granite City Public Schools

Monday - Manager's choice.

Tuesday - Sloppy joe on bun, later tots, buttered vegetable, fruit cup.

Wednesday - Meat loaf, whipped potatoes with gravy, corn, bread, chilled apple sauce.

Thursday - Taco with cheese, lettuce and tomato, buttered vegetable, fruit cup.

Friday - Fish sandwich on bun, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, fruit cup.

Madison Public Schools

Monday - Cheeseburgers, dill slices, french fries, fruit cup.

Tuesday - Pork chopettes, whipped potatoes with gravy, buttered carrots, cake.

Wednesday - Ravioli, cheese slice, tossed salad, buttered corn, rice pudding.

Thursday - Fried chicken, whipped potatoes with gravy, green beans, gelatin.

Friday - Hot dog on bun, baked beans, fruit cup, cookies.

Venice Public Schools

Monday - Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, apple chunks.

Tuesday - Chicken noodles, green beans, peaches.

Wednesday - No school; Christmas vacation.

Thursday - Christmas vacation.

Friday - Christmas vacation.

Holy Family

Monday - Ravioli, sliced cheese, peas, apple sauce, cake.

Tuesday - Sloppy joe on bun, cheese, french fries, corn, sugar cookies.

Wednesday - Hot ham and cheese sandwich, potato chips, green beans, lemon jello.

Thursday - Christmas vacation.

Friday - Christmas vacation.

St. Mary's, Madison

Monday - Hot dog on bun, green beans, chocolate chip bars, apple sauce.

Tuesday - Barbecued chicken, later tots, corn, peas.

Wednesday - Manager's choice.

Thursday - Christmas vacation.

Friday - Christmas vacation.

Senior Citizens

Monday - Fried chicken, parsley

potatoes, pickled beets, apple sauce.

Tuesday - Liver and onions, mashed potatoes, spinach, vanilla pudding.

Wednesday - Beef stew with vegetables, chef salad, biscuits, fruit cocktail.

Thursday - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, buttered carrots, sliced peaches.

Friday - Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans, Christmas

cookies.

Head Start

Monday - Meat loaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, apple, tomato slices, lettuce leaf, french dressing.

Tuesday - Mostaccioli with ground beef and sauce, tossed salad, green beans.

Thursday - Beef noodle casserole, peaches, green beans, whole wheat bread.

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Friday - Hot dog, macaroni and cheese, tomato slices, lettuce leaf, fruit cup.

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(Photo by Buddy Bortz)

ANNUAL JAYCEES SHOPPING SPREE: Granite City Jaycee Mike Murphy helps 7-year-old Jimmy Griffen try on a new jacket at K mart in Granite City last week. The store opened its doors early to the Jaycees and their young guests for the organization's annual Christmas shopping spree. The club purchases clothes and shoes for selected children each year prior to the holidays.

Holy Family gets out of debt

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

GRANITE CITY — When Dec. 30 rolls around, Holy Family parish will have more than its share of things to celebrate.

First, the Catholic parish will be celebrating the feast of the Holy Family, the first since the consolidation of the former St. Margaret Mary and Sacred Heart-St. Joseph parishes.

Second, because of that consolidation, by Dec. 30 the parish will be absolved of \$250,000 of debt. The former St. Joseph's church, rectory, and convent have been sold.

A "mortgage burning" celebration has been planned for Dec. 30. A thanksgiving mass will be held at Holy Family Church at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments and a celebration at the Holy Family Community Center.

"There is no real mortgage," the Rev. Bill Fisherkeller, Holy Family pastor, said. "That is just symbolic. It will actually be a burning of the debts."

The parishes consolidated during the summer due to a shortage of priests, nuns and parishioners.

The new parish has 1,000 families. "God was really with us," Fisherkeller said. "Other parishes have had buildings, can't sell them and the debts just go up higher and higher."

Fisherkeller said that only the sale of the church has yet to be finalized but will be by Dec. 30.

"It worked out beautifully that it is Dec. 30 when it is going to

'God was really with us. Other parishes have had buildings, can't sell them and the debts just go up higher and higher.'

Rev. Bill Fisherkeller
Holy Family pastor

occur, on the feast of the Holy Family," Fisherkeller said. It also worked out that the buildings will be involved in public service.

"All of the buildings will be put to very good use, not only for the parish but for the community," he said.

The former St. Joseph church will be home to the Catholic Charities Quad City area offices, possibly having a clothing center in the basement.

The former rectory has been purchased by the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Community Home (ARCH) and the convent by a local Alcoholics Anonymous group.

While the parish is now comfortably settling into its new arrangement, Fisherkeller is quick to remember those who made it possible.

"There are still those people who are hurt by being uprooted," he said. "But they had the faith and the trust that this was the right thing to do. If the people had balked, we'd have been in a real mess."

Fisherkeller mentioned three community members as helping to make the transition a smooth one: Clarence Degonia, president of the pastoral council, Leo Kon-

zen, an attorney who handled several transactions for the church, and architect Henry Gabriel, who handled repair work at Holy Family School.

"These are just a few of the people who worked very hard to create a united community," Fisherkeller said.

The absence of debt will not be permanent but, with immediate financial pressures satisfied, funds for new projects will be available.

"One program will be Renew, a discussion prayer group which will begin meeting in September or October of 1989."

"The program offers an opportunity to share your faith or what you believe in with other people in a conversational way," Fisherkeller said. Group leaders will begin their training next month.

Because the transition has only taken six months as opposed to the years that skeptics estimated, it would take, Fisherkeller is grateful for the past and optimistic for the future.

He said, "Just when you get discouraged with things that must be done, someone comes forth and gives their time and effort to accomplish it."

Village wants lower speed limit on Illinois 111 viaduct crossing

By Valerie Evenden
Staff writer

PONTON BEACH — Village officials will again approach the Illinois Department of Transportation in an effort to get traffic speeds lowered on a section of Illinois 111 where the state highway crosses the viaduct at Illinois 162.

"I saw a big concrete truck come down there this morning and nearly get a school bus," Ezekiel Barton, who resides in the 4200 block of Illinois 162, said at the Board of Trustees' meeting Dec. 13.

"The speed isn't so bad east and west along 162, but off the viaduct north and south it's bad," he said.

"We've had two or three bad wrecks there over the years, but if one of those big tanker trucks

crashes down there, everyone in Murray Subdivision is going to burn up," Barton said.

The subdivision is located south of 162 and east of the Clark Service Station on Illinois 111.

The residential area is surrounded by a seven-foot-high fence, Barton said.

"Some trucks' going to come down there and not be able to stop," he said.

"You know what the driver's going to do: he's going to whirl that thing to the right onto 162 and he's going to catch a school bus one of these days with our kids or our grandkids on it."

"I'm a retired man and I can see these things out of my window. So give us some help if you can," Barton asked of the trustees.

"Anytime you're coming off the viaduct it could be a problem," Mayor Glen Wilson agreed.

"But the state won't change it. We've asked them and they wouldn't do it. So far we haven't done any good with the state, but we'll ask them again."

Village Clerk Mary Warren said a letter will be sent to the Department of Transportation asking for a reduced speed limit on the viaduct.

The present speed limit is 50 mph while crossing the viaduct on 111.

The speed limit lowers to 45 mph in the northbound lanes of 111 near the Village Hall and through the Pontoon Road intersection, where it again changes to 50 mph and then to 55 mph.

JCs' bingo won't stop for holiday

The Granite City Jaycees will host a special bingo night on Christmas and New Year's days, said Secretary Ricky Weaver.

The group will hold the bingos at 7 p.m. in the Nameoki Bingo Center, behind the old Kroger store in the Nameoki Village Shopping Center.

The entertainment is planned both because of patron demand and to give something to those who might not have anything else to do, Weaver said.

Additionally, many families gather for the holidays and could play bingo together, he said.

Holiday closings at driver offices

All Secretary of State offices and facilities will be closed for Christmas and New Year's, Secretary of State Jim Edgar announced today. Both holidays are observed by all state agencies.

Downstate Driver Service facilities, which are normally open Tuesday through Saturday, will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24, for Christmas. All offices and facilities will resume business Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Downstate facilities will be closed Saturday, Dec. 31, for the New Year's holiday.

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94th ANNUAL STATEMENT	
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION	
September 30, 1988	
ASSETS	
First Mortgages and Other Loans and Contracts (net)	\$ 39,758,369
Federal Home Loan Bank Stock	362,200
Marketable Securities	6,784,691
Cash On Hand and In Banks	1,907,193
Office Property and Equipment (net)	453,367
Other Assets	654,422
TOTAL	\$ 49,920,242
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
Savings Accounts	\$ 44,630,632
Accrued Interest On Savings Accounts	141,249
Advanced Payments by Borrowers For Taxes and Insurance	526,291
Other Liabilities	257,189
General and Unallocated Reserves	4,364,881
TOTAL	\$ 49,920,242



BUBBLEMASTERS HELP SANTA: Five members of the Bubblemasters Underwater Recovery Team select cards from the Children's Tree at the Granite City K mart last week. The team purchased \$500 worth of clothes and toys to be given to children for Christmas. From left are Linda Roder, Terri Holtgrave, Carol Howards, Paula Weiss and Alice Jones. The money used to make the purchases was raised at the team's Labor Day auction.

Support growing for AIDS victims

By Rick Arnold
Staff affiliate

While the statistical projections concerning AIDS cases may be bleak, local officials are encouraged by the slowly but surely growing amount of community support for AIDS victims and their families.

Dr. Ken Haller, an East St. Louis physician and chairman of the St. Clair County Task Force on AIDS, said the task force has been successful in creating a network of social agencies for AIDS victims and their families, even though it has had problems attracting volunteers. Volunteers are needed both to serve on the task force and to assist AIDS victims and their families.

Right now, there are 21 confirmed cases of AIDS in St. Clair County. But local health officials say the true number of cases is probably a lot higher.

Officials are predicting a dramatic jump in reported cases by the early 1990s.

Haller said the task force and other agencies are trying to establish homes where AIDS victims can live, similar to the Doorways program run by the St. Louis Interfaith Task Force on AIDS.

One new local agency which is providing support for AIDS victims and their families is Bethany Place, a Belleville-based agency affiliated with St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Bethany Place opened in June, said Sister Carol Baltosiewicz, one of the agency's co-founders. Baltosiewicz said she has been encouraged by the growing inter-

AIDS group seeks volunteers

The Madison County AIDS Task Force is planning its second annual "buddy" training and is seeking interested volunteers from the Metro East area.

A buddy is a volunteer who works with a person who has Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), assisting with information, emotional

support and other types of support. A two-day training workshop will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, and Sunday, Jan. 29, in Granite City. The Task Force is now accepting calls to screen potential buddies.

For more information, the Madison County AIDS Task Force can be called at 1-800-345-2322.

with AIDS patients, the two nuns came up with the idea for Bethany Place in the late fall of 1986. They presented their idea to Gerald Harman, executive vice president of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and Bishop James Keleher of the Belleville Diocese. Both men supported the idea.

"In the past, we had had contact with patients who couldn't get help anywhere," Baltosiewicz said.

She said Bethany Place is named after Bethany, a small town in Israel, where Jesus went to relax and spend time with his friends. Baltosiewicz said Bethany was a place where Jesus could go and be accepted. It's that spirit of acceptance they're trying to foster at Bethany Place.

"We're not a residential facility; we're not a hospital," Baltosiewicz said. "We consider ourselves a communications and resource center for other social services."

Spurred by their experiences

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Spurred by their experiences

Costello offers inaugural tickets

By Edward T. Hearn
PRJ Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Illinois Rep. Jerry Costello is giving away 120 presidential inauguration tickets to interested 21st District residents on a first-come, first-serve basis, the lawmaker's office has announced.

President-elect George Bush is scheduled to be sworn in at noon on Jan. 20 in an outdoor ceremony on the west steps of the Capitol, which faces the Washington, D.C., Mall and the Washington Monument.

At the same event, Vice President-elect Dan Quayle is to be sworn in, followed by an inaugural address by Bush as the nation's 41st president.

The tickets Costello is providing will allow a select few from his district to observe the historic occasion from close range. People without tickets will have to stand far away on the mall lawn, probably out of sight of the events.

"The tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis," Costello said. "It's really an effort to reach out to people with an interest in their government and allow them to be part of this process."

Brian Lott, Costello's press secretary, said the tickets are being made available through the lawmaker's Washington office and requests should be limited to about three per person.

"They can either call or write the Washington office," Lott said. "Our informal rules have been two to three at this point. If we have 20 to 30 left over in the middle of January before the inauguration date, we can spread those around a little more."

Each member of Congress received 120 inaugural tickets, with many lawmakers opting to distribute them among family and friends. Costello, a Belleville Democrat, said he wanted to share the occasion with his constituents.

"This should not be a partisan or political event," Costello said. "We are inaugurating our next

president. It's one of the most ceremonial and important occasions for the entire country and everyone should have the opportunity to attend."

In 1984, freezing weather forced the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan indoors, under the Capitol Rotunda, leaving many with tickets without the chance to see the ceremony and speech.

A spokesman for the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inaugural Ceremonies said the panel is at work on a contingency plan in case of bad weather. However, he said that the plan would not accommodate all ticket holders, which could exceed 50,000.

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Council of Seniors sets holiday dinner

The Granite City Council of Seniors annual Christmas Dinner and Dance will be held Dec. 26 at the Granite City Township Hall, 2660 Delmar Ave.

Tickets, which are \$5, are on sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at

the Township Hall. All seniors 55 and older are welcome.

Dinner will start at 6 p.m. Dancing will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Anyone needing transportation should call Gertrude Barkley at 876-8039.

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Eagle Stone in new home

The Eagle-Stone Worship Center, whose members were temporarily meeting at the Days Inn in Edwardsville, now has a new location at 14th and Iowa streets in Granite City.

Pastor Don "Skeeter" Jones hopes the new location will be more convenient for the public.

The Eagle-Stone Ladies Outreach met at the church for its monthly meeting. Under the leadership of Joyce Richardson, the head of nursing ministries, the women made crafts for the Colonial Haven Nursing Home.

The group also distributed fruit to all the residents of the home; this month it was craft baskets with candy corn.

The next two months will be crocheted items, Christmas booties with candy for December, and ice skates for January. Crochet instructor for the month was Lynette Cook, who taught the basic steps of crocheting.

Barbara Blanton, the head of benevolent ministries, and Chairman Jerri Jones were thanked.

Others present at the meeting were: Jones, Richardson, Tammy Est, Tina Web, Sharon Wayne, Cook, Robin Wells, Betty Wells, Jo Raynor, Rosie Pinkston, Blanton, Sharon Ellins, Jeannette Richardson, Betty Nida and Doris Pulley.

'Sacagawea' addresses DAR

The Drusilla Andrews Chapter of the DAR held its November meeting in the home of the Regent Sandra Wilkinson, with eight members and two guest present.

After the hostess served juice, drinks and sweet rolls, Regent Linda Koenig led the group in the opening ritual.

Koenig introduced Mrs. Allan Schlesinger, the director for DAR chapters in Division VI, who discussed Sacagawea, the Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark from Hartford, Ill., to the northwest. Schlesinger was attired in an Indian costume, which was as authentic as she could prepare. She had done the beading on the entire outfit, complete with moccasins and headband, and had a papoose, a gift from another DAR chapter, in the wooden carrier on her back.

Schlesinger said she agreed with historians who had cred-

ited the successful completion of the two-year expedition to Sacagawea.

In the business meeting that followed the program, Judy Schatz read the President General's Message, and Louise Webb presented a topic on national defense.

Funds were approved to make a larger donation to Tamassee, a DAR-supported boarding school in South Carolina, which lost its dining hall in a fire.

A welcoming ceremony was conducted by Koenig and Jane Vanesler for new member Alvin Thurnau. Emma Schoen was elected alternate to the Illinois State DAR Conference to be held in Peoria in March. Koenig will serve as delegate and also serve as a page at the conference.

Guest Audrey Sperry, as well as members Ella Ray Smith and Barbara Williams, were also present for the meeting.

Nameoki Methodist presenting nativity

The annual live nativity and march to the manger will be at 10:45 a.m. today, Sunday, at Nameoki United Methodist Church, Pontoon Road at Primrose Avenue.

The cast will enter with choral accompaniment. Soloists will be Linda Briner, Al Stevens and Kevin Nicol on flugelhorn.

The nativity will feature David, Martha and Molly Caldera as the holy family; Laura Baker, Kristin Bernaix, Lindsey Bernaix and Amanda May as angels; Erik Lewis, Eric Patton, David Edwards, Dale Newberry and Jonathan Duff as shepherds; Jerry Poole, David Lathrop and David Ledbetter as magi.

For more information call 877-1937.

St. Elizabeth Ladies Sodality elects officers

The St. Elizabeth Ladies Sodality met Nov. 22.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Marsha Chomko. Nancy Norris said the Ladies Christmas Party will be held today at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and are open to parishioners.

Carmine Schwartz, nursing

home party chairman, said the Colonial Haven Christmas party will be held Dec. 20, and the party for the Colonades will be held Dec. 21.

Jan Polach, co-chairman of the bazaar committee, said the Sodality's bazaar was a success and thanked everyone for their hard work. Polach and Catherine

Ponce were thanked for being chairmen of the bazaar.

The election of officers for 1989 was held. The new officers are: president, Lou Lyleria; vice president, Nancy Norris; treasurer, Grace Parker; and secretary, Mary Evelyn Yenchio. The officers will be installed at the Christmas party.

The "Quilt of the Month" winner was Mildred Lewis. The Pot of Gold winner was Margaret DeRuntz. Martha Kozusok won the attendance prize.

The seventh grade was thanked for serving the evening's refreshments and reminded the kindergarten mothers they would serve the January meeting.

1st Baptist sets holiday services

The First Baptist Church, 21st Street and Delmar Avenue, invites the public to all of its holiday programs.

At 7 p.m. today, Sunday, the Golden Voices of Edwardsville will perform. The group consists of senior voices under the direction of Beatrice Halford.

On Wednesday, the children of the Sunday School will present their Christmas program. The program will be directed by Pat

Barker and Sunday School Director Charley Shanks.

A candlelight service is scheduled at 10 p.m. Dec. 24. The choir of First Baptist Church will take a special part in this service, directed by Clinton Howard.

On Dec. 25, there will be a Christmas service at 11 a.m. No Sunday school or evening services will be conducted.

Rev. Ivan Schoen is pastor.

New Life to present Christmas cantata

The New Life Assembly of God Sunday School and Children's Church, together with the Youth and Adult choirs, will present its Christmas Cantata, "A Joyous Celebration ... The

Birthday of The King," at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, and again at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 25.

The Rev. Dan Moore invites the public to attend the Christmas services.

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Obituaries

Montgomery

Fairy V. (Lewis) Montgomery, 84, of The Colonades, 1 Colonial Drive, died there at 7:10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 1988. She was a resident of the nursing home for the past three years.

Born Nov. 13, 1904, in Richland, Mo., Mrs. Montgomery resided in Granite City for 65 years.

She was a homemaker and a member of Central Christian Church.

Her husband, Clarence N. Montgomery, died Oct. 23, 1983.

Among the survivors are a daughter, Mrs. John (Doris) Pekarik of Granite City; one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will take place from 4:30 to 8 p.m. today (Sunday) at Irwin Chapel for Funerals, 2801 Madison Ave., where services will be conducted by the Rev. Manuel Tamayo at 10 a.m. Monday. Burial will be at Sunset Hill Cemetery, Edwardsville. Memorials to Central Christian Church are suggested.

Moore

Alpha Perry Moore, 71, of Granite City died at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 1988, at home. He was pronounced dead by Deputy Coroner Mark Scott. Mr. Moore had been ill for many years.

Born June 28, 1917, in Indiana, he resided in Granite City most of his life. He retired from the U.S. Army Depot, where he had worked as division chief of the motor pool.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a member of AMVETS Post 51 and the Granite City Marine Lodge.

His wife, Margaret, preceded him in death July 25, 1984.

Survivors include one son, Gary Moore of Smithboro; one brother, Walter Moore of Lake Worth, Fla.; one sister, Eileen Parkinson of Harrisburg; and two grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. today (Sunday) at Henry Memorial Home, 203 N. Illinois, Lewistown, Ill., where funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Monday. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery, Lewistown.

Memorials to the American Cancer Society have been suggested. Local arrangements were handled by Mercer Mortuary of Granite City.

Pontoon

(Continued from Page 1A)

George E. Giudici, owner of Crescent Parts and Equipment, said his plumbing company grosses more than \$10 million a year and has 10 branches. About 40 percent of the 44-year-old business is in retail sales, he said.

Last year, the firm paid \$15,000 in sales taxes to the City of Belleville, where it has a similar operation, he said.

The proposed Pontoon Beach facility is identical, if not larger, than the Belleville operation, which has six employees from the local area, Giudici said.

The company plans to construct a 15,000-square-foot Butler building warehouse of glass and masonry at the rear of the property and may develop the front section of the tract, adjacent to Illinois 111, into a commercial area to attract other retail businesses, Giudici said.

Crescent also submitted a separate bid of \$40,000 to purchase the back five acres of the same property only, but with the village responsible for construction of sewers, streets and water.

Trustee Don Rea demurred somewhat about the amount of the bid for the nine acres, noting that property not far away "is going for nearly \$60,000 an acre. I recommend we sit on this for awhile and see what we can come up with."

Trustee Loren Madison

(Continued from Page 1A)

ter if we had not intended it as a long-term project."

School Treasurer L. Monroe Worthen suggested that a DARE committee be organized composed of two school-board members, two city council members, school faculty and administration, and other community members.

Worthen and Debbie Wilkerson, school board secretary, will represent the board on that committee.

While he favors the program, already having sent officers for the training, Lengyel is concerned about a manpower shortage.

"I can't let a policeman work by himself until he gets trained for six months," Lengyel said. "I've got a body but he's not used to us."

The city recently hired five officers, and a replacement for the DARE trainer would make six officers in training, one more than the force normally has.

Yovonoff

Christina F. (Fortomars) Yovonoff, 80, of St. Louis, formerly of Granite City, died at 12:55 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 1988, at Incarnate Word Hospital, St. Louis, where she was a patient two hours. She was born in Greece.

Born Aug. 6, 1908, in Greece, Mrs. Yovonoff resided in Granite City for 56 years prior to moving to St. Louis four years ago.

She was a member of Sts. Cyril and Method Eastern Orthodox Church and the church's Ladies Aid Society.

Mrs. Yovonoff was employed some years ago at the Nesco plant and by Fortenoy Clothing Co., both of Granite City. Her husband, Chris Yovonoff, died in March 1968.

Among the survivors are a daughter, Miss Violet Yovonoff of St. Louis; and a sister, Elena Elkas, and a brother, Tykka Fortomars, both of Palos, Greece.

Arrangements are pending at Irwin Chapel for Funerals, 2801 Madison Ave. Friends may call 877-6500 for details. Memorials to Sts. Cyril and Method Church are suggested.

At the same time a second officer was processing another prisoner and a squad car had just come into the saltpoor.

The saltpoor doors were

Woman prisoner quietly disappears from station

GRANITE CITY A woman prisoner pushed on a door that apparently had failed to lock securely and disappeared from the station headquarters at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Police Lt. Don Knight said Tuesday that scenario appears to be the only way Fannie Mae Ford, 24, of the 400 block of Selb Avenue, Venice, could have left a hallway inside the police station.

Ford disappeared when she was allowed into a police jailway to make a phone call. She was accompanied by an officer, who turned around to get a key to the property area where the personal effects of prisoners are kept.

Ford reportedly needed a telephone number from her property.

At the same time a second officer was processing another prisoner and a squad car had just come into the saltpoor.

The saltpoor doors were

probably open. Ford apparently pushed on the hallway door leading into the saltpoor and quietly left.

The police building was searched in case she was hiding somewhere inside.

The woman has not yet been found.

Ford had been arrested at 8 p.m. Sunday after a K mart security officer alleged she was leaving the store at 3655 N. Main St. without paying for a white sweatshirt.

Since she reportedly had a prior conviction for retail theft and was on probation, a felony information alleging retail theft was issued through the Madison County State's Attorney's Office.

Ford appeared in the Granite City court at 4 p.m. Tuesday. Bail was set at \$1,000 cash and a mittimus was issued, authorizing her transfer to the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville should bail not be posted.

Granite City police

Hand tools, battery gone

Douglas C. Haven III of the 1500 block of Kirkpatrick Homes reported Dec. 8 that his parked car was burglarized while he was visiting in the 2400 block of Benton Street. Missing were assorted hand tools valued at \$200, sockets worth \$200, a metal tool box valued at \$10 and a 12-volt battery worth \$45.

Speakers, tapes missing

Keith Griffin of the 2800 block of Washington Avenue said that between 30 and 35 cassette tapes, a watch and two speakers valued at \$100 were stolen from his car while it was parked in the driveway on Dec. 8.

Traffic warrant served

Phillip Bower, 22, of the 3600 block of Kirkpatrick Homes was transferred Dec. 8 from the Pontoon Beach Police Station to Granite City on a local warrant alleging failure to appear on a traffic charge. He was released on bail, pending a hearing.

Teacher at ETC shoved

A 14-year-old Madison youth allegedly pushed and shoved a woman teacher while walking down a hallway at the Educational Therapy Center, 3200 block of East 23rd Street, Dec. 8. The boy, who had refused to sit down in class and made remarks, was booked for battery and was released to his mother on a notice to appear for a hearing.

Grassroots

Upcoming meetings of Quad-City Area governmental taxing bodies include:

Granite City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, City Hall, 2000 Edison Ave.

Granite City School Board, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, Board Office, 20th and Adams streets.

Venice City Council, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, City Hall, Broadway and Klein Street, Venice.

Venice School Board, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, Board Office, Broadway and Seventh Street, Venice.

Burglar gets VCR, cash

In a burglary at the home of Linda K. Pallardy of the 2600 block of Lincoln Avenue on Dec. 8, the intruder stole a video cassette recorder valued at \$300, several cassette tapes and \$140. When Pallardy arrived home, she found the front door partially open and the door frame broken. The house, which had been ransacked, was searched but the burglar had left.

Paint breaks windows

Two bedroom windows were smashed when a can of paint was thrown at the home of Linda Army of the 2600 block of Lincoln Avenue, she reported at 3:40 a.m. Dec. 9.

Teen-agers steal lights

Three teen-age youths were seen running away from the home of Charlene A. Sanders of the 3000 block of Wayne Avenue, taking with them six strands of decorative Christmas lights containing 600 bulbs valued at \$35, she reported Dec. 8.

Troy men charged here

After a car was stopped Dec. 8 on Maryville Road at Northbridge, Michael Scott Guelterman, 21, of Troy was charged with driving on an expired license, having an improper muffler and an improper use of registration.

When beer allegedly was found inside the vehicle, both Guelterman and a passenger, Douglas Robert McMurray, 21, of Troy, were charged with illegal transportation/possession of alcohol.

Drunk driving arrests down for 1988

Secretary of State Jim Edgar has reported the number of drunk drivers on Illinois highways has declined this year despite an increase in highway fatalities.

"Although we are disturbed that highway deaths have increased, that jump is not because of more drunk drivers on the road," Edgar said.

"In fact, drunk driving arrests are down. There are 7 percent fewer DUI arrests reported this year."

For the first 11 months of 1988, 43,925 persons were arrested for DUI, compared to 47,333 in 1987. In addition, blood alcohol tests performed on drivers killed in highway mishaps show that 43 percent were legally intoxicated in 1987, compared to 51 percent in 1981, Edgar's first full year in office.

He disclosed the figures in connection with National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week, Dec. 12-18.

This year's theme is "the designated driver."

Edgar encouraged holiday party goers to use designated drivers who choose not to drink as a way to promote highway safety.

"The designated driver program works," Edgar said. "I believe we have aroused a social consciousness among many people who recognize that drinking and driving not only mean a loss of life. Thanks to many grassroots anti-drunk driving organizations, such as MADD, AAIM and SADD, we are getting the message across that drunk driving kills."

Edgar said the news media has played a significant role in heightening awareness as to the dangers of drunk driving.

In addition, he said police field observations indicate fewer drunken drivers on highways than in previous years.

The secretary of state said he believed a combination of other factors was responsible for the

higher death toll on Illinois roads this year. These include "the 65 mph speed limit and its contagious effect on other roads, insufficient seat belt usage, more rail crossing accidents, and the fact that the number of miles driven is up."

Other information compiled by Edgar's office shows a sharp increase in the number of women getting arrested for drunk driving. As a group, the number of DUIs for women has increased 44 percent. Men, however, continue to comprise the greatest number of DUI offenders, accounting for 81 percent.

The average blood alcohol content of a person arrested for drunk driving remains at .18, nearly double the .10 legal limit for intoxication.

The number of multiple offenders has also risen as a percentage of the total from 10 percent for the first 11 months of 1986, to 26 percent this year.

Nine out of every 10 persons arrested for drunk driving lose driving privileges.

Hagnauer

(Continued from Page 1A)

natures prevented the referendum from making the ballot, according to Bob Barton of Granite City, one of the main supporters of the measure at that time. There has been speculation since that time about a renewed attempt during 1989.

In most Illinois counties, including St. Clair, voters elect the chairman of their county boards.

Hagnauer said that after 16 years as chairman of the board, he feels he is able to represent the interests of the county as a whole, and not just the Granite City area, from which he is elected.

He said he intends to remain a county board member as long as he can get re-elected, and the chairman of that board, with a majority vote of the 29 members.

Hagnauer appointed Haine to the transit post when the district was created in 1981 and Haine has been the district's only chairman. Haine, who also served as a county board member before becoming state's attorney, was the board's representative on the transit board.

The transit board consists of a county board member, a mayor, a township supervisor and two other members. All are appointed by the county board chairman with the board's approval.

Under Haine's leadership, the district became a multi-million-dollar operation with about 60 employees and a new office-garage complex in Pontoon Beach. Its operations are financed by a quarter-cent sales tax.

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Cash-5 Game: 05 06 16 22 29



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Sports

Lady Warriors lose late lead to Flyerettes

EAST ST. LOUIS — Kim Gresham had 29 points and 11 rebounds as the East St. Louis Flyerettes bounced back from a five-point deficit in the third quarter for a 59-55 win over the Lady Warriors on Thursday.

The loss dropped Granite City (3-4, 1-3 in Southwestern Conference play) into fifth place in the

GRANITE CITY	13	14	14	14-55
EAST ST. LOUIS	11	11	14	22-58
GRANITE CITY: Cavanaugh 23, Parris 20, Spitznagel 7, FT-5, Lenz 2, FG-22 (2)				
EAST ST. LOUIS: Gresham 29 (11 rebounds), Frazier 11 (1 rebound), Hilda 9 (1 rebound), White 6, Bostle 4, FG-27, FT-5, PF-17.				

MADISON	07	07	12	19-45
HIGHLAND	16	20	13	16-55
MADISON: Jones 10, Brandon 11, Browley 10, Smith 7, Shelby 1, FG-15 (9 3-pointers), FT-6, PF-14.				
HIGHLAND: S. Kampwirth 17 (16 rebounds), Weiss 17, Zaborit 10, Huxsoda 9 (10 assists), 6 steals, C. Kampwirth 6, D. Kampwirth 4, Hiler 2, FG-26, FT-7, PF-10.				

conference. Juniors Jennifer Cavanaugh and Kim Pawlak combined for 43 points as the Lady Warriors took a 27-22 halftime lead. They still led 41-36 after three quarters, but were outscored 23-14 in the final eight minutes.

East St. Louis is now 3-6, 2-2 in the SWC. Gresham, a 6-1 senior, is now averaging 19.3 points per game. Cavanaugh, who had 23 points, is averaging 20.4 points and Pawlak, who had 20, is averaging 18.7 points. But while Gresham was supported by 30 points from the Flyerettes' other four starters, Cavanaugh and Pawlak were supported by only 12 points from the Lady Warriors' other three starters.

Granite City is off until the Mascot Holiday Tournament, which begins Dec. 2 at Madison. Trojanettes fell to 1-3 with a 65-45 loss at Highland on Thursday.

Wrestlers rally for 3rd straight

BELLEVEILLE — Getting a big lift from the upper weight classes, the Warrior wrestling team picked up its third straight dual meet victory on Thursday, beating Belleville West 39-24.

Granite City scored the last 22 points, with Dan Grayson (160 pounds), Brad Massey (171) and Dale Hutson (heavyweight) getting pins while Larry Hahne (189) won a 10-0 decision.

Brent Davis kept his perfect season alive at 10-0 with 10 pins. He finished off the Maroons' Jon Bingham at 2:56. But 110-pounder Bryan Pritchett suffered his first defeat of the season, dropping a close 3-2 decision to West's Joe Fye.

Chris Hankins got the Warriors off to a 4-0 lead with a 12-4 decision over Frank Karts at 125 pounds. (Correction: Hankins won his match at East St. Louis last Friday. His record listed at 4-3 in Thursday's edition, was actually 5-1 and now 6-1 with Thursday's win.)

The Warriors led 14-3 before the Maroons won four of the next five matches — three on pins — to take a 24-17 lead. But Grayson (7-4) got the quick pin of the night, dropping Brian Thomas in just 41 seconds. Massey (4-1-1) followed with a pin of Ben Emke in 1:38 as Granite City took a 24-24 lead. Hahne (7-3) followed with his decision over Matt Shryock before Hutson picked up his first win of the year, pinning Steve Thorpe in 5:05.

GRANITE CITY 39, Belleville West 24
103 — CHRIS HANKINS beat Frank Karts 12-4
117 — TODD HUTCHINSON beat Jerry Karty 12-0
119 — JOE FYE beat BRYAN PRITCHETT 3-2, 125
125 — BRENT DAVIS pinned Jon Bingham at 2:56, 110
135 — JERRY HAHNE pinned JERRY HEUSCHMAN at 2:56, 125
145 — BRETT RAMMUSSEN beat DOUG EDWARDS 11-7, 140
150 — JOE DODDS pinned TERRY NODD at 1:52, 145
160 — NICH FENOLLO beat Joe Cheel 7-4, 152
171 — DUG MASEY pinned SCHREIBER at 5:40, 160
189 — DAN GRAYSON pinned Brian Thomas at 0:41, 171
220 — LARRY HAHNE pinned Ben Emke at 1:38, 189
285 — DALE HUTSON pinned Matt Shryock 10-0, 275
300 — DALE HUTSON pinned Steve Thorpe at 5:05.

GC soccer alumni banquet is Dec. 23

The Granite City soccer alumni banquet will be held Dec. 23 at St. Gregory's Armenian Hall.

Special guests to be honored by Warrior coach Gene Baker include former players Ted Gagus, Dave Sheridan, David James and David Paz. Parents to be honored are Franz Feigl, Don Goldschmidt Sr., Ed Hagauer and Bob Yount. Baker's assistants, Mel Bunting and Dave Ames, will also be honored.

The banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Cash bar only. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at Jim's Cuts & Styles, 2720 Nameoki Road; Sheridan's Drug Store, 2301 State St.; or by contacting Ramsey and Rosane Rich, 876-7346; or Larry and Shirley Ryan, 2560 Westmoreland.



ADDIE LENZI brings the ball upcourt for the Lady Warriors. (Staff photo by Dave Whaley)

Warrior game plan derailed by quick Comanches, 66-52

By Gary King
Staff writer

CAHOKIA — If you didn't make it to Cahokia gymnasium Friday night to watch the Comanches and the Granite City Warriors, just rent a film of a tornado sweeping through the midwest. The effect is about the same.

The Comanches' (3-2) cyclone-like attack uprooted the Warriors' game plan and wreaked utter havoc on Granite City's (5-4) offensive scheme.

By the time the whirlwind subsided, the Warriors were left standing knee-deep in the rubble of a 66-52 loss.

For most of the game, and especially in the first half, Cahokia's laser-like quickness dictated the tempo of the contest and forced Granite City into a game it wanted nothing to do with. Watching the Warriors try to keep step with Cahokia was sort of like watching a square dancer try his hand on American Bandstand.

Behind some solid shooting by forward Emmanuel Rodgers and two Magic Johnson-like passes from guard Brian Karvinen, the

GRANITE CITY	13	13	12	14-52
CAHOKIA	24	16	13	15-66
GRANITE CITY: Wilkinson 15 (9 rebounds), Cook 12, VanBuschur 8, Burton 4, Diller 4, Schaefer 4, Langitt 2, Niles 2, Ware 1.				
CAHOKIA: Rogers 17, L. Wynn 11, Karvinen 10, Tiley 8, Hill 6 (6 assists), McCray 6, P. Wynn 3, Jennings 2, Fennell 1, Guntysadt 1.				

Comanches squealed to an 11-0 lead before the Warriors had time to break a sweat.

A quick trifecta of three-pointers by the Warriors' Matt Cook pulled Granite City within two midway through the opening quarter, but the Comanches shifted gears and took a 24-13 lead with an 11-2 spurt to end the period.

The scenario was much the same in the second quarter, as Granite City narrowed Cahokia's edge to five, 31-26, only to watch Cahokia run off nine unanswered points to take a 40-26 lead into the intermission.

For Warrior coach Don Deterding, the loss was simply an unwelcome visit from an old nemesis.

"In all the years I've coached, we've never played well down

here (Cahokia)," Deterding said. "Tonight, we just weren't ready to play. We weren't mentally prepared for a game like this. And to make matters worse, we couldn't hit. And when you can't hit you start pressing and making mistakes."

"We had our chances. We got close a couple of times, but we gave them 11, nine and eight-point spurts in the first half. You can't give points away like that and expect to win."

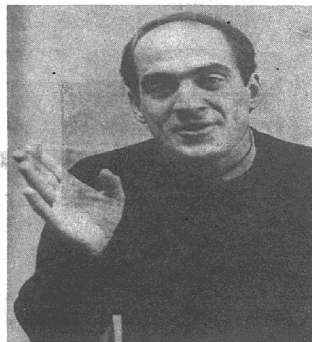
Comanche coach John Latta said the burn-rubber approach his team exhibited in the first half was typical.

"We're going to be a streaky team like that," Latta said. "But I thought the first half was the best half of basketball that we've played all year. We played good defense, we controlled the tempo, we shot well and rebounded well. I'd like to see us put together four quarters just like that."

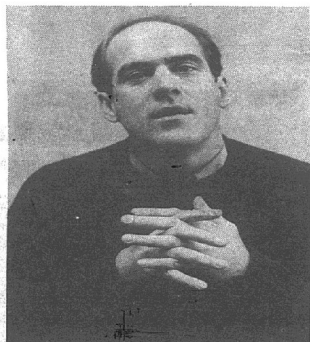
"We did a good job of taking Granite City out of their offense. They like to set it up offensively. We like teams to take the 15-

(See WARRIORS, Page 2B)

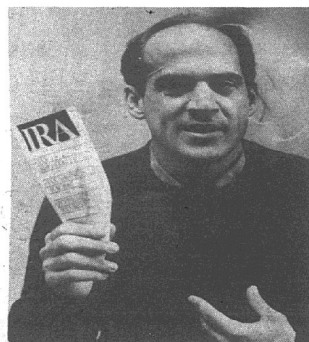
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Warriors

(Continued from Page 1B)
 footer without any passing, any offense, any rhythm, any reason. And we'll give them the ones they make. But eventually, it's going to catch up with them."

The Warriors treaded water in the second half, but never quite made it back to shore, drawing no closer than 13 points.

The Comanches' balanced attack was paced by Emmanuel

Rodgers' 17 points and Larry Wynn's 11 points and seven rebounds. Wynn entered the game averaging 26 points per contest.

"Larry didn't score as much tonight, but he pulled down seven rebounds and had six assists," Latta said. "He's just an all-around player. When teams do key on him, we're balanced enough that our other

guys will get to you. As long as we're moving the ball, we're all right. I would've been glad to see us score 80 points tonight."

The only bright spots for Granite City were Mike Wilkinson and a late flash by point guard John VanBuskirk. Wilkinson scored 15 points and pulled down nine rebounds in a solid performance, while VanBuskirk scored eight points — six within

a two-minute span of the fourth quarter. Erstwhile sharpshooter Cook connected on only four of 14 three-point attempts. Center Kory Burton and forward Jeff Schaefer were held to eight points collectively.

"We opened up the offense a little in the fourth quarter and started running a little bit," Detering said. "That allowed

Johnny to drive and make some things happen. I didn't do it earlier because I don't think we could've kept up with them, and we obviously couldn't have.

"Nobody hit tonight. Matt was cold. Kory was cold. Schaefer didn't have a real good night and Cahokia just annihilated us on the boards."

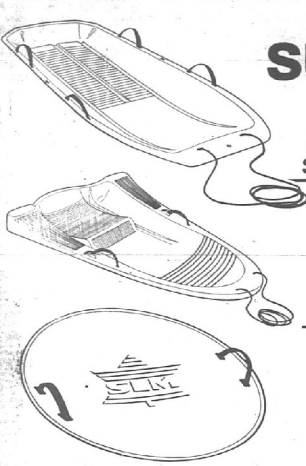
Complete details of the War-

riors' Saturday showdown with Southwestern Conference rival Collinsville will appear in Wednesday's Journal.

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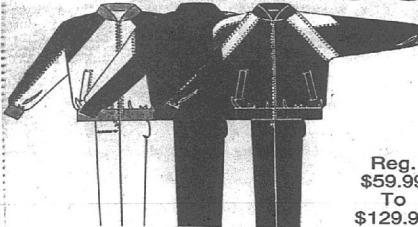
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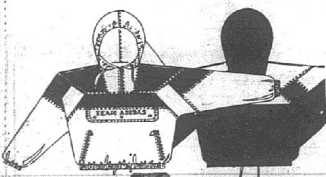
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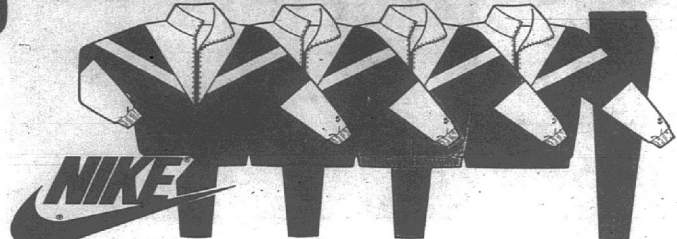
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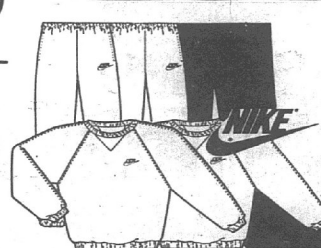


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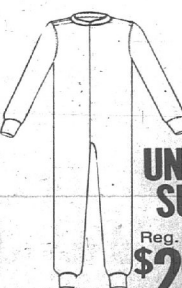


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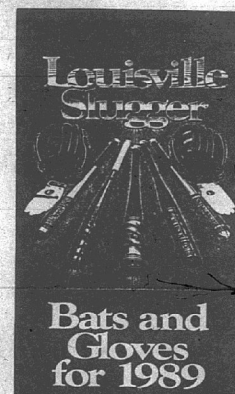


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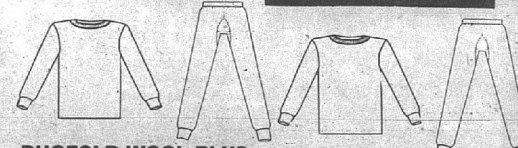


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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
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By Dave Whaley
Executive sports editor

"I hope we start jelling real soon," said Harris. "We got together Wednesday and talked about the mistakes we made against Lincoln. It was the worst defeat we've ever had in this

gan State to a 96-91 victory over Detroit on Thursday...The Devils are the top seed in the Freeburg Holiday Tournament, scheduled to open Dec. 26. Venice will play Marissa in the first round that day at 8:30 p.m.



By Mike Blackshere
Correspondent

Madison was lulled into a half-court game, where they were very ineffective. The Trojans settled for long jumpers

"I think we played very well," Waldo said. "We just didn't hit our shots. We handled their press well and we ran our

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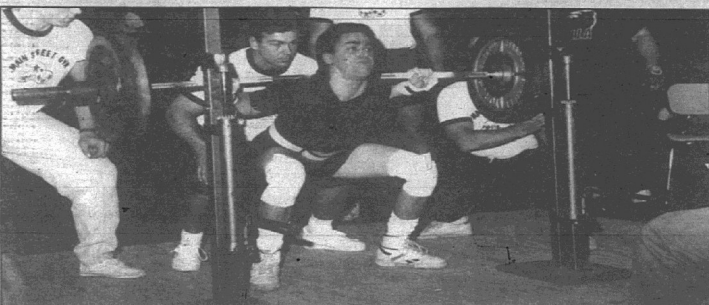
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NEW RECORD: Rick Fowler of Granite City broke the Missouri teenage squat record in the 17-19 age group (185-pound category) with a 462-pound squat on Dec. 11. It happened at the Monsanto YMCA in St. Louis during the St. Louis YMCA powerlifting meet and came on Fowler's second attempt of the day. Fowler, 18, is part of the Renaissance powerlifting team and a member of the American Drug Free Powerlifting Association, an organization that outlaws anabolic steroids. He plans on entering the teen nationals next summer in Indiana.

Mizzou hopes Stull's magic continues

By Mike Suchan
Staff affiliate

Bob Stull's stock has risen ever since he began coaching college football. Now it is hoped he can perform his number magic in a bigger market.

Stull's success at changing losing records to winning made him a prime candidate in this season's mad scramble for coaches. His name came up in several searches, but the University of Missouri finally did land him.

Missouri athletic director Dick Tamburo, to no one's surprise, announced in a press conference Wednesday that the University of Texas-El Paso coach was coming to Columbia to replace Woody Widenhofer, who resigned Nov. 21 after his fourth successive losing season.

"I'd like to thank Dick and Chancellor (Haskell) Monroe for the opportunity to coach at the University of Missouri," said Stull, who along with his flare for winning brings a sense of humor.

When pressed to predict the

number of victories next season, Stull flippantly said, "I think we'll win at least one game." Tamburo, who worked with Stull at Kent State in the 1970s, has been blowing Stull's horn. He said hiring Stull is the first step in getting the rusting turtles to spin.

"Yes, we definitely are looking forward to getting back those tiger fans," Tamburo said. "I do think people enjoy watching winning football and we're in a state where we're ready to go on to the next plateau."

Stull knows he's coming into a frustrated program and that winning with exciting football is the only way to fill the stands.

"Football is an entertainment business," he said. "It's really a show. People pay and you lose, and they don't come back."

Stull, who was officially associated the job Monday after

returning home from a visit to Stanford, signed a five-year contract worth \$85,000 per season. If either party breaks the contract at any time, they must pay the other the balance.

Missouri players are glad they weren't left out in the cold any longer.

"It just feels good to finally get somebody in here and get some idea of what kind of person he is," Tiger junior quarterback John Stollenwerck said. "I think they were able to get someone in here that was a winner."

"It just feels good that we know if we listen to him and follow him, he can get us on the right track."

Stull put UTEP on the winning track. He steadily progressed from 4-8 in 1986 to 7-4 the next season to this year's 10-2 mark, which put the Miners in the Dec. 23 Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La.

Lowlights from football season

By Steve Harvey

Universal Press Syndicate
The Bottom 10 presents notes from the 1988 pro and college football seasons.

THE COLLEGES
—The University of Wisconsin invited 200 former players to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school's football program. They watched the Badgers lose to Michigan 62-14.

—When Troy State's lights malfunctioned late in a game against Southeast Missouri, the stadium moved en masse to a nearby practice field to finish the contest. Troy eventually won, 26-13. Time: 3 hours, 30 minutes.

—Ernie Banks-Let's Play-Two Award: The University of New Mexico discovered to its shock that it had games scheduled against Air Force and Arizona State on the same day.

THE PROS
—After Los Angeles Raiders coach Tom Flores resigned in January, owner Al Davis said that "race, color, creed and even sex" would not be factors in selecting a successor, prompting rumors that Phyllis George would be chosen.

—Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon suffered a pre-season ankle injury when he fell off a stool early.

—The Phoenix Cardinals lost the pre-game coin flip eight weeks in a row.

—New Orleans Saints' Jim Dombrowski claimed that Washington Redskins' Dexter Manley spit on him. Manley said he was sneezing.

•Trojans

(Continued from Page 3B)
offense well, but our shots just didn't go in. I was very pleased with our effort.

"We played real well defensively. We did a good job matching up to their shooters. We did not want to get into a running game and we wanted to do a good job on (Jessie) Leonard (who was held to nine points after averaging 22 in the first two games)."

The big continuing story for the Trojans is not on the court but in the classroom. Academic ineligibility is keeping some of Madison's best players in street clothes instead of shorts and tank tops. Each player must be evaluated each week according to IHSA requirements. But Madison High School has more stringent requirements which are in effect in addition to the IHSA rules.

Sophomore Federico Walker and senior James Haynes played in Madison's first two games and combined for 56 points. They were not eligible for Friday's game according to IHSA rules.

Sophomore Andre Mayes and senior Aaron Jones are would-be starters who have yet to play. They are eligible under IHSA requirements, but not eligible under Madison's standards until at least Jan. 14.

It is bad enough that Madison can't put these players on the floor. But Collins must feel like he is in the middle of a game of musical chairs, not knowing who is going to be left out next.

"We are making a lot of youthful mistakes due to our inexperience," Collins said. "We will get a lot better if we start doing the little things and the fundamentals like blocking out that you need to do to win."

"We got beat good tonight, but that is part of the learning process for these kids. They are going to have to learn that when they are on the floor they are going to have to depend on themselves and not worry about the kids that aren't playing right now."

MAC has hoops signups

The Mitchell Athletic Club are signing up members for basketball, grades two through six. Parents and children interested in playing basketball can call Terry Wallace at 931-0114 for more information.

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Gifts for the holidays



Collecting holiday gifts ... and memories, too

By Sally Burton
Staff affiliate

Why do people collect plates, bells, baseball cards, cups and saucers, coins, salt and pepper shakers, bird figurines, thimbles and antique porcelain dolls?

Is it because of their decorative benefits and aesthetic and possible monetary values, or because of the fond memories the collectibles bring to mind over the years?

Most major publications carry ads to whet the appetites of potential collectors.

The more expensive items offered by such companies as the Franklin Mint and Lenox

offer consumers monthly payment plans to ease the pain of one large payment.

For people who are investing in collectibles strictly for their monetary value, there is always the risk of a loss if the demand for the item doesn't materialize. If a demand doesn't exist, the collectible's original cost most probably will not increase in value.

As a friend of mine said several years ago, the monetary value of a collectible doesn't exist if there aren't people willing to purchase the item at the original price or more.

When the first Hummel Christ-

mas plate was issued in 1971, the price was \$17.50. The plate issued in 1987 was \$45.

In the late 1970s, I became interested in the series and purchased a plate annually thereafter at the Swiss Gift Shop in Highland. In later years, my mother began giving me the annual editions at Christmas.

Although my collection now goes back to 1974, I haven't felt I could afford to back up and obtain the other three plates in the series. Their value is now in the hundreds of dollars.

Several years ago, Lillian Kernan, Swiss Gift Shop owner, explained that the plate issued in

1972 is worth more today than the first plate issued in 1971 because of the demand for the plate.

Was it because of the plate's design? Or was it because collectors were just catching on to the series? The reason is really difficult to determine.

My interest in the series peaked primarily because of the yuletide themes of the Schmid plates which feature drawings inspired by Sister Berta Hummel. And, most of the drawings are of children.

With the exception of my Austrian glass collection, the collectibles I have are connected with

my favorite time of year — Christmas.

Since 1974, I have collected the Norman Rockwell ornaments designed by Dave Grossman. These ornaments appealed to me because of the memories I have of the late artist's drawings featured on the covers of the Saturday Evening Post.

My Christmas collection also includes the annual Hummel ornaments featuring drawings by Sister Hummel.

The first one is titled "The Guardian Angel," and because it can no longer be obtained, it never hangs on my tree. I fear it might fall off and break, so it is

placed in my china cabinet with my plates.

Another collection of ornaments includes Annis from Italy by Schmid Ferrandine. Many of these ornaments have been given to me by my Aunt Woody.

Norma Fitzpatrick gave me Schmid Ferrandine ornaments in 1980 and 1981.

And, not to forget the family pet. From 1976-1978, when my German shepherd was still alive, my parents annually gave Gretchen "Joy of Christmas" ornaments by Forham. Later, when my dog Misty Blue came along, she received the ornaments from 1979 until they were discontinued in 1981.

The Christmas story as adults perceive it

Most of us want to believe that Christmas is for children. Certainly, children enjoy the excitement of anticipation, gifts and surprises. And in a religious sense, the mystery of Christmas seems best appreciated by innocent children or at least by those with child-like faith.

But what about adults? Is there any way that Christmas can be an adult holiday, too? Surely adulthood does not require the loss of mystery, excitement and surprise in life.

One way to preserve a child's understanding of Christmas is to be childish. But that solution accepts the heresy that worships youth and finds age repugnant. The truth is that maturity has some unique values.

One of the benefits of maturity comes from the knowledge that behind simple appearances,

complexities lie hidden. What seems to be one thing is quite often another. Beyond easy answers, there are difficult questions. And when childish things are put away, mental challenges provide the excitement even youth envy.

Are there any intellectual challenges lying behind carols, Advent wreaths, and Christmas pageants? How about the one recognized by Albert Schweitzer?

Sometime after the birth of Jesus, visitors from the East came with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They left their gifts and returned to their homeland. Yet, when Mary and Joseph fled the country to find safety in Egypt and when they returned to Nazareth, all the biblical evidence presents the holy family as poor. What happened

Altared Opinion

By John Stahman



to the gold? Would not the gold have made Joseph and Mary wealthier than anyone else in Nazareth?

The question about the poverty of Jesus' family and the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh so fascinated Albert Schweitzer that he devoted several years of his life to search for the historical Jesus. His book, "The Quest for the Historical Jesus," influenced theologians for decades.

From that book and its influ-

ence, thoughtful Christians have learned that finding the historical Jesus is not nearly as exciting, inspiring and rewarding as meeting the Christ of faith.

Children enjoy the nativity scenes with shepherds, cows, sheep and a baby in a straw-filled manger. But adults find it more exciting when God chooses a cold heart as the birth place for his beloved.

Christmas depends less on knowing the exact date of Jesus' birth, the actual place of birth, whether it was a manger or a cave, and what happened to the gifts he received. Instead, Christmas depends on how we respond to the gift of God and whether or not we mean what we sing. "Oh holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today."

Although it probably reveals a flaw in my character, I like to think that Schweitzer's questioning helped form him as one of the great Christians of this century. I like to think that his willingness to search for truth, even when it led him into valleys of doubt, became the channel for God to make him a great physician and healer of souls in the heart of Africa. If nothing else, his questions have nourished my faith.

Another challenge implicit in the celebration of Christmas is wrapped up in the manner of Jesus' conception and birth. While it is easy to recite the creeds and confess that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, it is more like Christmas when questions are asked.

One ancient theologian pondered the miraculous birth of

Jesus and concluded that the organ of conception was the ear. His conclusion startled and then fascinated me. And after mulling it over in my own devotions, I have decided his conclusion explains why children understand the mystery of Christmas. Small children do not understand human physiology, but they quickly and wholeheartedly believe what their fathers say.

It seems reasonable to think that other miracles are waiting to be created by God's word if a receptive ear can be found. Unfortunately, most adult ears are numbed by the noise of demands and threats. Clever contraceptives seal out the creative power of God and our minds remain empty wombs. And so Christmas belongs to the young who have ears that hear.

May you have a very merry and mature Christmas!

Classic toys and games make great holiday gifts

Classics never go out of style. That is true for clothes, cars and even toys. Classic toys are those that have stood the test of time and the test of repeat play by millions of children.

When your child made out his Christmas list this month, he may not have included some of the great classic toys. But that doesn't mean Santa can't surprise and delight him with the unexpected.

Most parents today will recognize the following toys from the toy chests of their childhood. Why not introduce your child to one of your old favorites and with your child recapture that fun?

"Who can forget the Little Golden Books? The most popular title in the series is "The Pokey Little Puppy," one of the original 13 titles published in 1942. Thirteen million copies of that title have been sold.

"Building toys are recurring favorites because in addition to being educational and worthwhile for children, they actually get used by kids. Give your child six eight-stud Lego building bricks and let him experiment. There are almost 103 million ways for these six bricks to be joined.

"Playskool Lincoln Logs were invented in 1916 by John Lloyd Wright, son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

"Erector sets have been around since their introduction at the 1913 Toy Fair. As an erector set builder, your child will be in such lofty company as Presidents John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and Ohio Sen. (and former astronaut) John Glenn.

"Tinkertoy construction sets, introduced in 1914, once were used by Lockheed as a design model to build an airplane wing fuselage testing system. They could provide a challenge for your child.

"Train sets never will go out of style. Lionel and Tyco train sets are great for practically anyone from 8 to 80 and Brio train sets are perfect for the younger engineers.

"Pretend play is a staple of childhood. Fischer-Price Little People and Playmobil play sets are ideal for preschoolers wanting to try out the world.

"The toy industry produces more than 150 million cars per year. Tonka trucks, Mattel's Hot

ABCs for Parents

By Jane Cosby

Wheels cars and Eril trucks and farm equipment are the industry mainstays.

Raggedy Ann at age 72, and Barbie at age 29, both have built successful marketing empires. But the dolls have the power to succeed with children without all

the accessories and add-ons. Colorforms are a great old idea that is still full of life. Etch-A-Sketch, Play-Doh and Crayola crayons are examples of old products that have been updated and modernized for today's kids.

Monopoly, invented during the Depression, has been reproduced in 14-karat gold and in solid chocolate. The plain off-the-shelf variety will work fine for your kids.

Other classic games include Scrabble for Juniors, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Yahtzee, Uno, Memory Game, Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, dominoes and checkers.

View-Master 3-D Viewers may seem too simplistic for today's sophisticated vidders. But of the 1 billion picture reels sold worldwide, Michael Jackson's "Thriller" is one of the most popular, indicating a fairly up-to-date audience.

Silly Putty, developed in a General Electric lab during World War II when scientists were looking for a viable synthetic rubber to aid the war effort, has been used to take lint off clothes, clean typewriter keys, level wobbly furniture legs and fasten down tools during the Apollo 8 flight. Your child probably could come up with some more uses for it.

The origins of the yo-yo are traced to the Philippine Islands where primitive tribes played with a rock tied to long thong. It was a favorite diversion in the royal courts of France and Spain in the 17th and 18th centuries. Since its introduction to the United States in 1929, more than 500 million Duncan Yo-Yos have

been sold—nearly twice the current population of the United States.

If you have any questions or have a specific topic you would like to see covered in this column, please write to: ABCs for Parents, St. Louis News Service, 1215 Fern Ridge Parkway, Suite 108, St. Louis, Mo, 63111.

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What's cooking in kitchen gifts

When jotting down gift possibilities, don't overlook the wealth of kitchen equipment on the market. Time-saving items are certain to be appreciated by the cook in the family, while equipment that contributes to faster meals are household crowd-pleasers.

Here are some items to consider:

• Coffee-maker—Black and Decker, 10-cup automatic. Central Hardware, regular \$29.99, sale \$16.99 through Nov. 26.

• Smoker and cooker—Brinkman Smokin' Grill, with free Hickory chips. Central Hardware, \$34.99 after rebate.

• Presto Salad Shooter—Quickly slices, shreds or grates fruit, vegetables and cheese. Venture, \$24.99.

• Char-B-Que, No. 48369—It's the wonderful world of outdoor cooking—indoors. Barbecues, broils, grills, toasts and is virtually smokeless. Sears, regular \$44.99, sale \$29.99 through Christmas.

• 17-piece gadget organizer—Includes large plastic spoon and fork, measuring cup, potato peeler and more. Target, \$15.

• Electronic digital scale—Target, \$20.

• Oster Kitchen Center—Blender, food processor and mixer all in one handy appliance. Target, \$169.99.

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Break out the party hats, wallets and checkbooks

By Lucyann Boston
Staff affiliate

Planning on doing the town on New Year's Eve?

Join the crowd.
Hotels and restaurants report that the advance reservation business has never been so brisk as area residents make plans for a gala New Year's celebration, which this year will fall on a Saturday night.

Most hotels are offering some type of overnight/party packages with prices in the \$150 to \$225 range. A number of packages include New Year's Day brunch and most hotels are featuring extended checkout times for late-night revelers. Restaurants are outdoing themselves to provide gourmet menus for those planning to welcome 1989 in style.

"We're getting as many as 200 calls a day," says Ken Hamko, food and beverage director at the Omni International Hotel in Union Station. "We've had to

hire an extra person just to take the calls."

New Year's festivities at the Omni this year include a 1950s and 1960s theme rock 'n' roll party complete with "transition stations," where partygoers can have their hair beehived or greased and obtain fuzzy poodles for their clothes, rhinestone sunglasses and fake tattoos.

Cost of the party, which includes an open bar throughout the evening, a buffet dinner and dancing to the music of Bob Kuban's Phoenix is \$85 per person. For those who prefer to avoid the drive home, the hotel is offering a \$225 overnight package, which includes a room in the garden section.

The overnight package, says Hamko, is definitely the most popular option.

Nearly 35 percent of those who party New Year's Eve in the ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel will be part of a \$215.76 package that includes a hotel room and a five-course cham-

pagne dinner, party favors and dancing to the music of three different bands, hotel officials say.

For those who prefer a smaller scale celebration, Faust's Restaurant at the Adam's Mark will serve an a la carte menu with seatings at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tables must be cleared by 9 p.m. to allow space for a \$55-per-person fixed-price dinner that will be served between 9 and 11 p.m. Dancing will follow dinner. Reservations and a \$50 deposit are required to hold a table.

Other area hotel celebrations include:

The Clarion Hotel: Dinner, dancing, an open bar, party favors and a hotel room are included in the \$185-per-couple Clarion package. New Year's Day brunch will be served in the ballroom at a cost of \$12.95 per person. For an additional \$39.95, a second night in the hotel is available.

The Holiday Inn Riverfront/I.L.

Robert E. Lee: The \$149.95 package features two days and one night in an over-sized guest room at the Holiday Inn and a champagne dinner aboard the Lt. Robert E. Lee with transportation to and from the restaurant included. Also included is a breakfast buffet at Jimbo's Restaurant in the Holiday Inn on New Year's Day.

The Chase Hotel: The \$209 package at the Chase includes dinner in the Khorassan Room and dancing to the 16-piece Ed Shaughnessy + Tonight Show Orchestra, party favors, champagne at midnight and a champagne breakfast the next morning.

Slouffer Concourse Hotel: A deluxe guest room, open bar, continuous dancing and a buffet dinner from 8 to 10 p.m. are features of the \$219.99 ballroom package, which includes a champagne breakfast on New Year's Day. The hotel also will host a smaller celebration in Earhart's restaurant, which will include an

open bar, a champagne dinner for two and dancing for \$109 per couple. For an additional \$59, overnight accommodations and breakfast New Year's Day are available.

The Daniele Hilton: A five-course dinner for two with unlimited champagne, musical entertainment, an overnight stay in a newly renovated guest room and morning brunch is priced at \$179. The champagne dinner alone is \$99 per couple.

Reservations are a must at all restaurants surveyed by the Suburban Journals—with the exception of Tony's, which even on New Year's Eve remains firm in its policy of not accepting Saturday reservations.

J. Hunter's Gateway Mall Cafe will offer seatings at 6 and 8:30 p.m. for a \$35-per-person, six-course menu that includes a complimentary bottle of champagne and choice of entrees.

Two of the area's newest hot

spots, Whitey Herzog's Restaurant and 64 West, also are offering special New Year's events.

At Whitey's there will be seatings at 6, 8, and 10 p.m. for a \$40-per-person fixed-price dinner, which includes a glass of champagne as you arrive. As a bonus for having dinner at the restaurant, guests can return the next morning for a complimentary brunch. Admission to the night club is an additional \$10 per person.

At 64 West, advance New Year's reservations at the night club are \$10. They will be \$15 at the door. There also is a \$45-per-person, four-course dinner available in the restaurant. Price of the dinner includes admission to the night club.

There also is a special New Year's package at one of the St. Louis area's oldest hot spots, the Goldenrod Showboat. The \$47.50-per-person cost includes a buffet dinner at 8 p.m., admission to the off-Broadway comedy "Nonsense" and dancing.

New Year's fireworks at riverfront

Fireworks will provide extra sparkle and fizz in the New Year's celebration in downtown St. Louis.

Beginning at 12:30 a.m., a 15-minute fireworks display will originate in front of the Overlook stage on the riverfront. The show is being sponsored by TWA and the Riverfront Development Committee of Downtown St. Louis.

The pyrotechnics will be staged a half hour after 1989 officially begins to allow celebrations within hotels and restaurants to wind down before the outdoor festivities begin, said

Thomas Purcell, chairman of the Riverfront Development Committee.

"The hotels and restaurants like to have the celebrations within their premises complete before we begin," he said. "We want to enhance what they are doing, not compete," he said.

The New Year's fireworks, which will be staged by Sunset Fireworks Ltd., will bring to a close a year-long series of displays underwritten by a \$50,000 grant from TWA. Other shows occurred to herald New Year's 1988, Easter, Memorial Day, Labor Day and the beginning of

this year's holiday season. Plans for the New Year 1989 display were placed on hold until it was certain that there would be enough money left after the show at the opening of the holiday season to provide a significant display.

"We didn't want to do it (the New Year's show) unless we could make a splash," said Alfred Kerth, a public relations counselor with Fleishman-Hillard and vice president of Christmas in St. Louis, the umbrella organization that is overseeing the holiday celebration. "After looking at costs we were delighted we could do both."

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- **Digitape**—The ultrasonic, tapeless measure. Measures up to 33 feet instantly. Venture: on sale for \$28.99 through Nov. 26.
- **3/8-inch reversible drill**—Black & Decker, model 7144. Central Hardware: regular \$29.99; sale \$26.99 through Nov. 26.
- **Skill-Twist cordless screwdriver**—Central Hardware: \$19.99.
- **14-inch gas chain saw**—McCulloch, Central Hardware: regular \$129.99; sale \$88 through Nov. 26.
- **16 1/2-foot multi-position aluminum ladder**—Worx anywhere. Central Hardware: regular \$129.99; sale \$99.99 through Nov. 26.
- **Floor jack and creeper** No. 1266—Sturdy all-steel jack comes with convenient creeper with casters. Sears: \$44.99 (special purchase while quantities last).
- **1-inch belt sander**—Delta bench-top model. Central Hardware: regular \$89.99; sale \$69.99 through Nov. 26.
- **Multi-piece socket set**—Target: \$5.
- **Rechargeable screwdriver kit**—Target: \$20.
- **Black and Decker cordless screwdriver**—Lightweight, powerful AATZ and convenient. This rechargeable screwdriver goes everywhere you go. Target: \$17.99.

What men want

Gifts that help men look their best are always welcome. And that's exactly what the following items do:

- **Hathaway Oxford dress shirt**—This handsome shirt in 100 percent pure cotton is available in four colors to complement any suit. Dillard's: \$35.
- **Christian Dior neckwear**—Made of 100 percent imported silk. Available in traditional prints, new micro-designs or adventurous paisleys. Dillard's: \$20.
- **John Henry matching ties and pocket squares**—Carefully designed, 100 percent silk. Dillard's: \$20.
- **Men's Mixed Media tops**—Venture: Long-sleeve pullover top, \$18.99; stone-washed look in poly-cotton style with knit insets and colors, \$19.99.
- **College fleece**—Collegiate screened fleece tops or pants in a wide choice of colors. Venture: \$13.99.
- **Men's shoe polisher**—Battery-operated shoe polisher contains a brush and buffer attachments. Famous-Barr: \$12.

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What became of yesteryear's favorite toys?

By Mike Leathers
Staff affiliate

Modern kids wouldn't recognize the toys that cluttered my toy box 20 years ago.

But then, I can't recognize theirs, either.

The "in" toys — Transformers, Teddy Ruxpin and Cabbage Patch Dolls — have been on the top of just about every kid's Christmas wish list for the last few years. But those toys, we now find out, are quickly becoming passe as kids' interests are grabbed by the newest and latest.

Jerry Wynn, an assistant manager at Collinsville's Grandpa Edgerton's, said it looks like there won't be any expensive toy dominating this holiday shopping season. If that's true, many parents can breathe a collective sigh of relief.

In a recent trip to the store I was gratified to see a few toys that were around in my formative years. But...

All Barbie ever did 20 years ago was date Ken. Today, Bar-

bie has dozens of careers — ranging from doctor to rock star to business professional — and Ken is almost nowhere to be found.

Hot Wheels just ran circles around an orange, plastic truck. Now, the cars will change colors when you dunk them in water and — if parents want to shell out the extra bucks — probably change into aliens or dinosaurs.

"Ghostbusters." Any toy with this magic word printed on the side of its box is just about guaranteed to be a sellout, Coleman said.

Every rule must have an exception, so here's the exception to Wynn's rule of no expensive toys this season. Nintendo has a new video game with animated runners who leap over hurdles on a track. What's the gimmick?

Instead of manipulating a joystick to control the action, kids can run and jump in place on a pad which advances the runners on the screen. So who says that kids playing video games most of the day don't get enough exercise? Toy manufacturers are

eager to make sure kids get their workout.

Grandpa's doesn't have that particular video game yet, Wynn said, but "if it's hot, we'll get it."

Some toys expected to be popular this year cost less than \$5, Wynn said. For instance, Micro-Machines are inch-long cars, boats and airplanes with movable hoods and doors. And the cost is about \$4 for a pack of three to five vehicles.

Also, the wet, color-changing cars by Hot Wheels cost about \$4.

Isn't it refreshing to see toy companies put out some inexpensive toys that kids like, I said. But Wynn quickly pointed out that the toy moguls have all the accessories — little garages, storage cases and tiny truck stops — that kids are convinced they must have.

For the young toddlers, Fisher-Price has introduced its new "Magic Scan Checkout Counter" to parallel the modern supermarket checkout lane. The

toy has a moving conveyor belt, a beeping price-scanner, cash register and scale for about \$30.

My favorite toys as a kid were pretty unsophisticated compared

to some of these examples of technological wizardry. Probably the most state-of-the-art toy I owned was a teddy bear with a music box inside it.

If I hadn't decided to throw it in the washer for a good cleaning when I was six years old, it might still be around today.

Hotline checks holiday mail orders for concerned Christmas shoppers

By Neil F. Hartigan
Illinois attorney general

Q. With the upcoming Christmas season, I have decided to shop by mail. Do you have any useful tips for mail order?

A. Shopping by mail to avoid fighting crowds can have its advantages, but only if done wisely and in a timely fashion.

If you are planning to do your holiday shopping by mail, you should place your orders as soon as possible. But before placing your order, make sure you are dealing with a reputable company. You can check the company out by calling the Attorney General's toll free number, 1-800-252-8666, or by calling the Better Business Bureau.

In most instances, you should allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of your order. Always beware of exaggerated claims or unrealistically low prices and understand the firm's refund policy.

Finally, and more importantly, deal with businesses whose reputations for reliability are known, where guarantees are honored, delivery is on time, and which will stand behind their products.

Q. Are there any particular scams we should look out for as the Christmas season approaches?

A. Yes, there are. Two of those to especially watch out for are going-out-of-business sales and charitable giving.

Some merchants find the holiday season a good time to conduct going-out-of-business sales. Some operators conduct prolonged going-out-of-business sales and after the sales end, remain in business under a new name or at a new address. During the so-called sale, prices are inflated and returns are rarely accepted.

Consumers should also be cautious of shops opened only for the holiday season. If problems should arise after the purchase, the firm may not be there to make a refund.

When you donate to charity this holiday season, give with your head as well as your heart. While you may be moved by a charity's emotional appeal, stop and take a few moments to find out about the organization. What problem is the charity addressing?

What specific programs will your gift support? And, how much of your donation will be spent on the charity's actual programs, and how much will be used for fundraising and administration?

Ask for the charity's full name and address. Also, don't be pressured into giving. There are numerous worthwhile charities which solicit contributions during the holiday season. Don't get caught by one that is not. Remember, give but give wisely.

Q. Why does a "Buyers Guide" sticker seem to be posted in the window of used cars for sale at dealer lots?

A. The Federal Trade Commission's "Used Car Rule" requires that a large sticker called a "Buyers Guide" be placed in the window of all used vehicles sold by a dealer.

"Demonstrator" models, light-duty vans, and light-duty trucks are included under the rule, but motorcycles are not. Essentially, this sticker provides you, the potential buyer, with certain required information.

Whether the vehicle comes with a warranty or is sold "as is," with no warranty.

What specific warranty protection the dealer provides;

That you should request to have the vehicle inspected by your own mechanic before you buy it;

What some of the major problems are that can occur with any vehicle.

When you purchase a used car from a dealer, you should receive a copy of the Buyers Guide sticker. Always check that the dealer has properly completed the Buyers Guide.

It should reflect any and all changes in warranty protection that you and the dealer have negotiated during the deal, and

it becomes part of your written sales contract. A dealer is also required by the Used Car Rule to provide Spanish-language Buyers Guides.

Have a consumer question? Write Neil F. Hartigan, Illinois Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 500 South Second St., Springfield, Ill., 62706.

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Cutting down own tree kindles the spirit

By Pamela Seibert
Staff affiliate

One of the best ways to kindle the holiday spirit is to put up the Christmas tree. Selecting just the right tree can add much to everyone's Christmas enjoyment.

Of course, one way to get a tree is to go to a lot and select a tree that already has been cut. But it is much more fun on a crisp afternoon to drive to the country with a tree farm as your destination. There, in a country setting, you walk among the trees and in the spirit of days gone by, cut down your own tree.

There are two such tree farms not far from St. Louis: Scheer's Tree Farm, located just outside Beaufort, Mo., about 45 minutes southwest of St. Louis; and Schluter's Tree Farm, three miles south of Belleville.

"There are many good reasons to cut your own tree, the main one being that the trees are much fresher," said Beverly Scheer, who with her husband, Elgar, owns and operates a 40-acre tree farm. "They're a lot more interestingly displayed, they're more accessible (than on a lot), and the atmosphere is nicer."

On the Scheer farm, 25 acres are planted with Christmas trees, all of which are either Scotch pine or Austrian pine. "Both of these types are characterized by long needles and full shape, but the Austrian pine is a heavier, stronger tree, with longer needles than the Scotch," Scheer said.

Of the 25,000 trees growing on the farm, about 2,000 have been tagged for cutting this season, she said. The trees are from 3 to 12 feet high and cost between \$2 and \$5 per foot, she said.

When visitors arrive at the tree farm, which is open from 10:30 a.m. to sunset every Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 18, they are loaned a saw to cut and then shop at their leisure to make their choice, Scheer said. "If someone needs help, or is dressed up and doesn't want to

quickly. But if a tree is put in water within a day or so, it will be able to pick up moisture."

Scheer Farm also sells wreaths in diameters of 12, 24 and 36 inches. These are made from the boughs of the Scotch pines.

Schluter's Tree Farm near

Belleville has a wide variety of white pine and Scotch pine trees on 25 acres, about 3,000 trees for cutting this year, said owner Floyd Schluter. The trees range in size from 4 to 12 feet, with most of them in the 4 1/2- to 7-foot range.

The price is the same — \$22 whether you cut a 4-foot tree or 12-foot tree, Schluter said. The single price is primarily to discourage cutting down the smaller trees.

The Scotch pine is characterized by long, coarse needles, and these constitute the majority of trees sold at Schluter's farm. The white pine is a graceful tree that is gaining in popularity, he said. It also has long needles but they are softer and there is more room between the boughs for ornaments.

Before you head to the farm to cut a tree, Schluter suggests measuring the area where the tree will stand. "A tree will appear smaller on the farm in its natural setting than it will in the living room," he said. "You don't want a tree that's way too

tall and has to be cut further, or one with a base that's too big a diameter."

If possible, Schluter advises, a tree should be put into a bucket

of water immediately, even if it won't be set up for several days. Otherwise, a second cut must be made to ensure the tree will absorb water.

Schluter's Tree Farm is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"A freshly cut tree should be put in water immediately or the sap will seal over the cut stump as a protective measure for the tree, making absorption of water impossible, unless the trunk is cut again."

do the cutting, we have local high school boys on hand to help," she said.

Once a tree has been selected and cut, a mechanical "shaker" shakes the tree, ridding it of leaves, grass or dead needles.

"Then, if the customer wishes, we can cover the tree with netting called vester to draw branches toward the trunk and make the whole thing a bundle about 18 inches in diameter for easy handling," Scheer said. "The tree can even be stood up in its stand with the netting still on. We also will tie the trees onto the cars."

Scheer said there are rules of thumb for keeping a tree fresh once it is in your home.

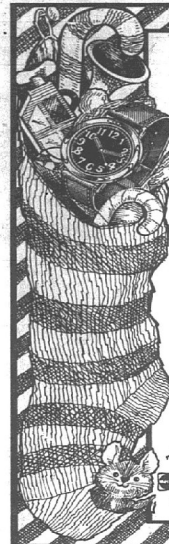
"A freshly cut tree should be put in water immediately or the sap will seal over the cut stump as a protective measure for the tree, making absorption of water impossible, unless the trunk is cut again," Scheer said. "Trees for lots are generally cut at least two months before Thanksgiving, and without this protective action, they would dry out very

quickly. But if a tree is put in water within a day or so, it will be able to pick up moisture."

Scheer Farm also sells wreaths in diameters of 12, 24 and 36 inches. These are made from the boughs of the Scotch pines.

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Add festive colors to a holiday fire

The following article is by Mary Lou Garbe, University of Illinois Extension adviser in home economics.

As the holiday season approaches, many people are beginning to prepare for the festivities, the feast and the gathering of family members.

A main attraction at any winter holiday party is a crackling fire in the fireplace. Like a magnet, a roaring fire attracts the young and old alike to its glowing hue and toasty warmth.

There's no better place to work some simple holiday magic.

You can create festive colors quite easily by soaking small yule logs, blocks of wood, kindling, wood chips, sawdust, pine cones and small newspaper logs in common chemicals available through most drug stores or chemical supply dealers. The following chemicals will produce these colors when burned:

- Copper sulfate; emerald green
- Calcium chloride; orange
- Copper chloride; blue
- Lithium chloride; carmine (red)
- Potassium chloride; purple
- Strontium chloride; red
- Barium chloride; green
- Table or rock salt; yellow
- Finely shredded steel wool; sparkles

Don't use potassium permanganate of chlorate or nitrate forms of these chemicals. They are corrosive and some are explosive.

The solutions are easy to mix but it is best to mix only one gallon at a time, and only one chemical at a time.

The formula is one pound of chemical to one gallon of water. The technical grades of these chemicals work fine and are much less expensive than the pure chemical. Mix the chemical and water in a plastic or wooden bucket, or a glass or earthen crock.

These chemical solutions are corrosive on metal buckets. Wear rubber gloves, and take care not to spill the solution. Contact with the skin can cause irritation. All the mixing and treating should be done outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.

After mixing the solution, place the items to be treated in a mesh bag and submerge it in the solution. A heavy weight attached to the bag will help hold it down.

Let the bag soak for one to two days. Remove the bag and let the solution drain off into the container. Spread the wet items out on layers of newspapers and let them dry.

It's best to allow at least one week for thorough drying. Rolled newspaper logs and small yule logs may take as much as three weeks to dry.

Don't throw away the blotter newspaper. Tightly roll it up and burn it. Treated items can be identified by color by tying a matching-colored piece of yarn to each piece.

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Magned poinsettia gets its day in court

By Matt Hall
Staff affiliate

ST. LOUIS — The poinsettia, a popular and apparently slandered decorative plant, is finally getting its day in court.

Accused of having a poisonous personality, the plant with its highly contrasting yuletide colors of red and green is finally getting a fair hearing, say local plant experts.

Most experts agree that the righteous verdict is one of not guilty.

The defense attorneys include the American Medical Association, poison control experts, the Missouri Botanical Garden, horticulturalists, the floral industry and even Abigail Van Buren, author of the "Dear Abby" advice column.

There's considerable literature suggesting that the poinsettia is toxic, but there's little documentation," said Marlene Chertok, information specialist for the Poison Control Center at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

Callers to the poison control hotline are advised to give milk to someone who has eaten part of a poinsettia plant, she said.

The allegations that poinsettias are poisonous is apparently the plant world's version of an urban myth.

"It's a story passed around as long as I've known of poinsettias," said Chip Tynan, an aide with the Missouri Botanical Garden's horticulture program at service. "I used to believe it myself."

"Last year was the first doubt

I heard (about the plant's poisonous qualities)," said Theresa Linthicum, owner of the All Seasons Garden Center, 2920 N. Lindbergh Blvd. "We've taken the plants to nursing homes before and been refused. But very definitely it is not poisonous according to literature we have received from several sources."

Tynan began researching the question several years ago after reading a plant industry publication disputing that the poinsettia is poisonous.

According to the American Medical Association's "AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants," the Poinsettia is not poisonous, he said. "Most inquiries on poisoning concern the poinsettia, which has been found to produce either no effect (orally or topically) or occasional cases of vomiting," the handbook reads.

The myth is apparently a result of guilt by association, Tynan said. The plant is a member of the Euphorbiaceae family, which contains several species that are indeed poisonous, Tynan said. But the poinsettia (Euphorbia pulcherrima in horticultural parlance) does not contain the poisonous toxin diterpenes.

It probably got a bad rap from another species in the family," Tynan said.

While the plant is not believed poisonous, it is likely to cause stomach and abdominal pains if consumed by humans or pets, the experts said. Also, people allergic to the plant and its milky white sap can get a rash from contact with the plant.

Despite the assertions of the

poinsettia's innocence, some doubts still linger. In the booklet, "Plant Poisoning in Small Companion Animals," published by St. Louis-based Ralston Purina Co. in 1980, the poinsettia is described as poisonous to both plant and humans. "The floral industry contends that these plants are not poisonous, but that is not true," writes the book's author.

Tynan said, "There you have it. Basically it comes down to taking the word of somebody. Who are you going to believe a veterinarian or the AMA?"

"I'm not going to try eating any to find out who's right," the Humane Society of Missouri is advising people to separate their pets and poinsettias. "While poinsettias may not be poisonous, the sap is irritating," said Mary Sherfy, director of community programs. "There are enough problems related to ingestion that other health problems could ensue, especially in puppies and kittens."

The Humane Society also warns people to keep mistletoe and holly berries away from pets. The poinsettia also called the "Christmas flower," "Christmas star" and "Easter flower" was native to Mexico until Joel Poinsett brought cuttings back to his South Carolina home in the early 1800s. It is now cultivated in the sunbelt area of the United States and in Hawaii.

About 30 million poinsettias were sold last year, according to the Botanical Garden. The plant is the number one holiday plant seller.

Desk-top tips to help efficiency

Items that improve efficiency in the room that serves as the home study often make excellent gifts. Some ideas:

•Sensi "Write Man"—Office organizer with pen, utility knife,

eraser, ruler/compass, glue and correction fluid all in an organized case. Famous-Barr: \$17.50.

•Feltroics Wordfinder—You'll never be at a loss for words. It's a dictionary and thesaurus with

an alphabetical keyboard all in one compact size. Ellard's: \$69.

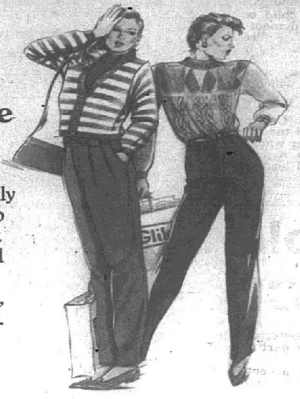
•Desk set—Includes matching calculator, clock, pen, Target: \$10.

•Portable stationery set—Target: \$5.

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Holidays difficult for some

"For men and women reared in alcoholic homes, the holiday season brings unsettling memories of family arguments, broken promises, disappointments and embarrassment. As adults, they often resent the show of holiday celebrations," says Andrew Nocita, team coordinator of the dual diagnosis program at Lutheran Medical Center.

"Moderation in all things," Nocita recommends.

"Be fair to yourself. Say no when you mean no and say yes when you really would like to participate. Don't punish yourself by avoiding activities you might enjoy."

According to professionals like Nocita who work with adult children of alcoholics in counseling programs, a handful of tried and true suggestions can make the holidays more pleasant.

1. Take care of yourself. Get adequate rest, food, exercise and activity.

2. Be aware of the mixed and sometimes painful feelings that the holidays generate. Share your feelings with one good friend.

3. Realize that your family of chance is in the past. Gather your friends and family of choice around you.

4. Create new family traditions and retain the special ones from the past.

5. Give yourself permission to reclaim your childish excitement and enjoyment. Celebrate and play in your own personal style.

6. If the season is difficult for you, give yourself the gift of growth by joining a mutual support group.

Just for fun: Items to enjoy

Gifts that promise more fun and enjoyment during those precious leisure hours are bound to be appreciated. A few suggestions:

•Electronic Wheel of Fortune: Play along with Pat and Vanna while watching America's favorite game show.

•Third Edition Board Game, \$4.99.

•Backgammon set: Target: \$10.

•Dart boards: Choose from executive dart set featuring wood backboard or self-storing dart board cabinet set. Target: \$10.

•Executive dart set, \$10; dart board cabinet set, \$15.

•Travel games: Compact, carry-along kit that includes dominoes, checkers, backgammon and cards. Target: \$10.

•Cassette/radio/lantern: Target: \$20.

•Sony Video Walkman: VCR and color TV in one, VCR recording and playback, 3-inch video display, one-day/one-event timer. Built-in speaker and head phones. Carrying case. Famous-Barr: \$299.99.

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Where The Gifts Are

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Children's books open worlds of learning

By Jane Cosby
Staff affiliate

The world of children's books is a world of delicate art and illustrations, as well as those bold and fearsome.

The texts vary from sweet little stories about the adventures of a doll to tales of real-life children who have excelled in sports, music, academics and writing. There are books for every interest and taste, for every child and parent.

Set your child on the path to reading enjoyment and into the world of children's literature this Christmas by buying a book. But be forewarned: it is a journey that may never end and a world from which the child may never return.

Consider "Firehouse" by Nini Barbarelli (Crown Publishers \$10.95). It is the story of an ordinary mouse who organizes his friends into a squadron of fire-fighters and leads them to douse a real fire and make a daring rescue.

It is chock-full of firefighting

terms and equipment. The illustrations will dazzle any 4- to 8-year-old fascinated with fire-fighters.

"Spaceships and Spells" (Harper and Row \$12.95), a collection of new fantasy and science-fiction stories for ages 10 and up, is full of tales so engaging your child will be seeing dragons in the distance and spaceships in the sky.

There also is a lot to see in "Reflections" by Ann Jonas (Greenwillow Books \$13). But don't let your eyes fool you; at the end of the book you turn it upside down and read back through it. Each full-color picture has another one reflected in it, and they portray a fantasy world of imagination and humor.

In "Aster Aardvark's Alphabet Adventure" by Steven Kellogg (Morrow Junior Books \$13), words are the focus of fun. Each page stars a letter of the alphabet and a story abounding with words beginning with that letter.

The following is from page G: "Gregory Grizzly" and a group of gorillas had gathered for golf

when a gaggle of geese in goggles and gaudy gowns galloped onto the green. "Children of all ages will love the fun with words and the wacky illustrations.

What 3- to 6-year-old would not love to be a construction worker for a day? "Machines at Work" by Byron Barton (Thomas Y. Crowell \$7.95) lets the young reader dig a hole, bulldoze a tree, mix cement and "perform" several other construction tasks.

The illustrations are colorful and childlike, but get the job done.

Talented photographer Tana Hoban shows readers an interesting perspective in a variety of designs in "Dots, Spots, Speckles, and Stripes" (Greenwillow Books \$11.75). The photographs are a wealth of color, shapes, designs, patterns and sizes. Children of all ages will enjoy a look through Toban's lens.

What do Anne Frank, Cassius Clay and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart have in common? They are all in "Remarkable Children," a book by Dennis Briardell Fradin (Little, Brown and Co.

\$14.95) that tells the incredible stories of 20 children who shaped history.

There are few treks — even into literature — as remarkable as the one by "Rip Van Winkle." The newest edition of Washington Irving's classic (Morrow Junior Books \$15) is sure to be a family favorite.

Toddlers also are not too young to start their journeys into literature. Nancy Trafuri has written and illustrated three wonderful board books for babies.

"Where We Sleep" lists animals and all the places they sleep, concluding with a baby saying, "And I have a crib." "In a Red House" shows objects and colors in bright, bold, humorous detail. "My Friends" lists friendly baby animals. All three (Greenwillow Books \$3.95 each) are for ages 6 months to 2 years.

"Step by Step" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books \$11.75) is a pictorial essay of a baby's adventures in stepping, kicking, rolling over and standing up.

Babies love watching other babies and they will delight in these photos.

There also is a wealth of books where the story literally jumps off the page. In "Sky-scraper Going Up" by John Strejan (Thomas Y. Crowell Books \$14.95), each stage in building a skyscraper is illustrated with pop-up pictures. "Baby Talk" by Anne Miranda (E.P. Dutton \$7.95) allows the toddler reader to "tell" the story by lifting flaps and uncovering the right picture.

"Roll Over" by Mordicai Gerstein (Crown Publishers \$7.95) is a humorous counting book that allows the reader to fold out a flap to reveal the characters falling out of bed.

In "The Great Race" by Stephen Wyllie and Anni Axworthy (Harper and Row \$9.95), the reader is given characters and objects on tabs that can be inserted in slots throughout the book. Dozens of different story combinations are possible.

Children just starting to read like to solo and will enjoy read-

ing two I Can Read Books all by themselves. "The Perfect Christmas Picture" by Fran Manushkin (Harper Trophy, \$2.95) tells about a father who cannot get his family to stand still for a Christmas photo even when he starts in spring. "Aunt Eater Loves a Mystery" by Doug Cushman (Harper and Row \$9.95) tells about sweet old Aunt Eater, who thinks mysteries are happening all around her.

Readers from second through fifth grade will be able to tackle "Detective Valentine" by Audrey Wood (Harper and Row \$12.95). This funny, little detective can't even find his own hat.

And if you have ever been tormented by a fly, you will certainly recognize the anguish of papa bear in Paula Winter's "The Bear and the Fly" (Crown Publishers \$3.50). Family harmony is destroyed in this wordless picture book as papa tries to rid the family of the offending insect. Everyone will laugh at the ridiculous turn of events.

Prolong festive beauty of Christmastime blooms

Potted flowering plants long have been a part of Yuletide traditions.

As festive accents in the home during this season of parties and family gatherings, they add a cheery note of welcome while instilling life into the Christmas decorations.

With proper care and selection, flowering will continue well into the new year. Choose a plant whose flowering period is good color but is not fully developed so you can enjoy the blooms for a longer period. Make sure there are no signs of wilting or insects. Foliage should be fresh and bright green with no brown leaves.

The poinsettia probably is the No. 1 Christmastime plant. Though red is by far the most popular color, there also are several other choices. Poinsettias are available in pots, which hold from one plant to three or more plants. Tree forms and baskets also are available.

When selecting a poinsettia, make sure the flowers, the tiny green buttons at the center of the colored bracts, are still green. These little buttons eventually will develop into little yellow flowers.

Foliage should be green all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication that the plant has active, healthy roots. Place the plant in a room where the light is bright enough for reading fine print. Check the soil to make sure it is moist, and when watering, add enough so that water will come out the drain at the bottom. Remove excess water within a few minutes and never let plants sit in water.

Water only when the soil feels dry to the touch. Apply a liquid fertilizer once a week and your plant should last for some time.

Azaleas are another popular holiday plant and come in a wide range of colors. Select plants that still have a large number of unopened buds. Azaleas are potted in a very light media that, if allowed to dry out, is difficult to get wet again.

If this happens, the best method for watering is as follows:

Don't let the thieves ruin your holiday

Thieves do wonders at this wondrous time of the year.

"Crimes such as shoplifting do increase somewhat this time of year," said Mel Weith, administrative assistant to St. Clair County Sheriff Mear Justus. "There's an increase usually in burglaries and robberies. Purse snatchings occur occasionally, but they're not such a big deal anymore—it's unusual to get more than one purse snatching report a year."

The sheriff's department recommends you take the following steps to avoid getting ripped off this Christmas:

Don't leave Christmas gifts out in the open, where visitors or passersby can see them. Store all Christmas gifts in a secure, private portion of the house.

Use as much outdoor lighting as possible. "A well-lit house tends to keep people with bad intentions away," Weith said.

Use caution regarding those you let in your home. "If someone comes to your door posing as a salesman, always check for their credentials and make sure you feel comfortable with them. If you don't, call us (the police) and let us check the credentials out ourselves," Weith said.

Remove the plant from the foil surrounding it and place the plant in a sink or bucket of warm water. Hold the soil ball below the water line until all air bubbles cease. Allow the plant to drain thoroughly before returning it to the display area.

Azaleas like cool temperatures so to ensure a long period of color, place plants in a cool area at night. Temperatures down to 55 degrees are ideal. Keep your plant away from heat sources

and out of drafts. Reiger begonias, cyclamen, kalanchoe and chrysanthemums also are popular during the holiday season. Select healthy plants and keep them moderately moist.

Do you have problems with your garden or household plants? If so, direct your questions to: The Garden Spot, St. Louis News Service, 1215 Fern Ridge Parkway, Suite 108, St. Louis, Mo. 63131.

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Kidvid fun for children, plus escape for parents

When most parents buy Christmas gifts for their kids, they also are buying some free time for themselves. The right toy or game can amuse kids for days, even weeks. The trick is to find something with semipositive values and not cop out by giving Junior a Rambo hunting knife.

This Christmas one gift guaranteed to provide hours of fun is kidvid.

"Selections are fantastic this year because several children's entertainment giants, Raffi, Jim Henson, Walt Disney and 'Sesame Street' — have produced customized programs especially for home video.

So get out your Christmas gift list. With help from Martha Jewing, editor of *Children's Video Report*, we have tried to find tapes to satisfy boys and girls under 10 — and parents of all ages.

Play-along — "Raffi in Concert with the Rise and Shine Band" (1988, A&M Video, 50 minutes, \$19.95), the maestro's recently released second videocassette title, will have kids (and parents) singing "It's My Bath Time" and "Everything Grows." Raffi, who has sold more than 3 million albums, encourages the wee ones in the audience to squeal, shout or clap at the right moment.

Disney Home Video has created a series of sing-along videos using musical moments from its library of animated classics. Viewers follow a Mickey Mouse head bouncing over the lyrics. One of Disney's newest titles, "You Can Fly" (1988, Disney, 28 minutes, \$14.95) packs a lot of winners: "When I See an Elephant Fly" from "Dumbo," "He's a Tramp" from "Lady and the Tramp," "The Beautiful Briny Sea" from "Beeknobs and Broomsticks," and "You Can Fly" from "Peter Pan." Also new is "Very Merry Christmas Songs" (1988, 27 mins., \$14.95) featuring "Rudolf" and "Jingle Bells" as performed in Disney cartoons.

The makers of "Sesame Street" also have raided their vaults to repack some special moments, creating 16 videotapes by editing snippets of material into a single theme, such as learning numbers or letters. Among the four new titles recently released, you might try "Big Bird's Favorite Party Games" (1988, Random House, 30 minutes, \$19.95), which includes the "Oscar Says" routine, or "The Alphabet Game" (1988, 30 minutes, \$19.95), "Wheel of Fortune" style television quiz show for small fry. "The Best of Ernie and Bert" (1988, 30 minutes, \$19.95) is irresistible.

Jim Henson has produced some brand-new Muppet Adventures for video that encourage kids to participate. Recently debuting were six titles in "Jim Henson's Play-along Video Series" (1988, Warner, 30 minutes, \$14.95 each). In one sketch during "Sing-Along, Dance-Along, Do-Along" a little girl in

Home Video

By Richard Zacks

A pith helmet shows kids how to do hand gestures to accompany a crocodile song. In "Hey, You're as Funny as Fozzie Bear," the furry starup comic teaches kids to tell jokes: Why do elephants have trunks? Because they don't have glove compartments. (Waltz, Wacka.) "Clifford's Fun with Letters" (1988, Family Home Entertainment, 30 minutes, \$14.95) features the Big Red Dog, a loquacious time slow-witted star of kids' books. In this tape of his seven-volume video series, he tries to earn money to go to the circus by running a message service. Hey, you gotta know how to spell, especially when a train runs over your message and scatters the letters.

Pinch-Hits Storyteller — The formula of Rabbit Ears Storybook Classics is to find a famous voice to entertain parents while telling kids a story. Last year, Jack Nicholson read Rudyard Kipling; this year you can hear Robin Williams' exuberant ad-libbed rendition of "Pecos Bill" (1988, Sony, 30 minutes, \$14.95), a legendary cowboy tale. The exploits created such geographical landmarks as the Grand Canyon.

In one of his typical manic twists, Williams intones, "Coyotes have no time for humans, for fear they might wind up on the collar of a woman named Elaine in New York." The visuals aren't full-blown animation but "picturation" — more like seeing the pages turn in a storybook. "Pecos" will appeal more to little adventure-seekers boys.

Critics have raved about "A Child's Christmas in Wales" (1987, Vestron, 55 minutes, \$19.95), a PBS adaptation of the 1922 Thomas, "Pecos" is the exquisite, said Dewing, "and is something the whole family would want to watch together."

Denholm Elliott narrates and stars as a grandfather who recalls some previous Yuletide gifts, breaks and meals. "Best Bets: 'Arthur 2: On the Rocks' (1988, Warner, \$89.98). Generally regarded as a dud for Dudley Moore, this sequel finds Moore and Liza Minnelli on the verge of poverty as the billionaire Sachs get snookered into a disastrous business deal.

"License to Drive" (1988, CBS/Fox, \$89.95). Corey Haim and Corey Feldman team up in this teen comedy about landing your first wheels.

"Mother, Jugs and Speed" (1978, Key, \$79.98). Excellent "MASH"-like comedy about an ambulance crew, starring Bill Cosby, Raquel Welch and Harvey Keitel.



MATHONWY REEVES and Denholm Elliott star in 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.'

Ernest, an attempt to boost audience's ego

By Frank Hunter

Staff affiliate

A press conference with Jim Varney, the daffy television huckster with more than 3,000 syndicated commercials listed on his resume, is anything but an hour of philosophic perspicacity.

To the contrary, it takes on an aura of eight acts of vaudeville, with Varney's ad-exec pal John Cherry playing straight man. Varney, his craggy face framed with wavy dark brown hair, delivers all the punchlines. And when answers to questions become routine, Cherry throws Varney a fresh bone to gnaw on that leads to a story, a one-liner, a stand-up routine, or a full-blown character impersonation that galvanizes reporters.

The occasion for all the foolishness is an interview session following the screening of "Ernest Saves Christmas," not a totally awful movie but somewhat less engaging than Varney is live.

Everybody has seen Ernest P. Worrell bawling products on television, and Varney cannot hurry through a hotel lobby on the way to the men's room without being detained by fans of television's outrageous bumbuddy who peddles dairy products, financial services and natural gas.

Varney says his Ernest character was spawned by Cherry and himself "to deal with an advertising problem."

"We wanted to create a person who, when he appeared on television, gave viewers the

comfortable illusion that although their lives were a mess and they were on the bottom of the heap, socially, academically and financially they were way above that guy," Varney says.

Born and reared 38 years ago in Kentucky, Varney began his career "from the ground up" doing skits and jokes for his three older sisters. He later worked in children's theater, won two state high school drama festivals, and at 16 became a professional actor playing Fucc in a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Following graduation from high school, Varney completed an apprenticeship at Virginia's acclaimed Barter Theater, performed stand-up comedy in many New York clubs and played featured roles at dinner theaters around the country.

But in the early 1970s Varney's career faltered. Broke, he drove a truck and worked as a tile setter in Lexington, Ky. to make ends meet.

A chance visit to Nashville, Tenn., brought about the big change in Varney's career. He auditioned for a television commercial and became "Sgt. Glory," a humorless, belligerent military man toutling of all things, "Tennessee's Purity Dairies."

That marked the beginning of Varney's collaboration with the Carden & Cherry Advertising Agency of Nashville. He later moved to Hollywood for a series of acting roles on network television's "Operation Petticoat" and a featured part, as Flo's boyfriend on "Alice."

Here's a few ways to celebrate New Year's

New Year's Eve is nature's way of reminding single people that they do not have a steady squeeze.

Unattached adults in or around their kids seem to annually face a social disaster — what the heck can we do for New Year's? The hotel parties are popular with their parents. Although most bars in the area will be open, how do you know which bar party to attend?

Here are a few ideas on how to spend your New Year's with a friend — or with several.

The sarcastic "Saturday Night Live" news anchor, Dennis Miller, does his comedy thing at 10 p.m. during New Year's Eve. Live at Westport Playhouse. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Following Miller's show, the festive sounds of Julius Williams. Tickets are \$35 and include food, champagne and party favors. Tickets are on sale at Ticket Now outlets (Famous-Barr, Record Company, Music Vision, Regal Sports) for the first tickets, call Dailix at (314) 494-6000.

The Funny Bone comedy clubs have special New Year's Eve shows. At the West Port club, Jack Simmons. Dan O'Sullivan and Rahn Ramey entertain at 8 and 10 p.m. Tickets for the first show are \$20 and following that show, there will be a champagne party with hats and other favors — and a bagel buffet. For reservations, call (314) 469-6692.

At the South County Funny Bone in Ronnie's Plaza, Michael Floorvax, Michael A. Smith and Ed Fiala entertain at 7-30 and 10 p.m. Tickets for the first show are \$10; the late show will be followed by champagne, party favors and sandwiches. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call (314) 843-2727.

Leonard Slatkin conducts the orchestra with guest artist soprano Roberta Peters. The program includes "On the Beautiful Danube" by Richard Strauss. During intermission, concertgoers can sip complimentary champagne and indulge themselves on Viennese pastries. Party favors will be distributed. Tickets are \$15, \$25, \$35 and \$45. For more information, call (314) 534-1700.

Whatever you do to celebrate New Year's Eve, please remember not to drink and drive.

Concert Clips

By Debbie Reinhardt

To top to the sounds of the '90s, check out the Casa Loma Ballroom, 3354 Iowa, where Sam-A-Lama provides dance music for the New Year's Party. Music begins at 9 p.m. and continues until 1 a.m. Admission is \$12.50 and includes party favors. For more information, call (314) 772-5700.

The popular regional band, Big Fun, rocks Mississippi Nights for New Year's Eve. The fun begins at 8 p.m. and continues through 2:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and includes open bar, champagne and party favors. For more information, call 421-3853.

If an elegant evening interests you, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra presents for the second consecutive year its Viennese New Year's Eve concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at Powell Symphony Hall.

Leonard Slatkin conducts the orchestra with guest artist soprano Roberta Peters. The program includes "On the Beautiful Danube" by Richard Strauss. During intermission, concertgoers can sip complimentary champagne and indulge themselves on Viennese pastries. Party favors will be distributed. Tickets are \$15, \$25, \$35 and \$45. For more information, call (314) 534-1700.

Whatever you do to celebrate New Year's Eve, please remember not to drink and drive.

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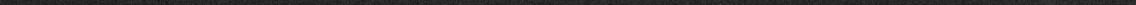
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Hartigan targets abuse, neglect of elderly people

Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan is calling for tough new laws to combat abuse and neglect of the elderly, crimes which every year strike more than one million senior citizens across the country.

Testifying before an Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on crimes against the elderly, chaired by Sen. William Murovitz, Hartigan said, "When people victimize our senior citizens they are not attacking total strangers — these are our mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles — the people who built this state."

In his testimony, Hartigan cited a recent study by the National Police Executive Research Forum which found that every year one million senior citizens are abused in their own home by a family member or caretaker.

"Often these senior citizens are physically abused, physically neglected and financially exploited by family members and caretakers in their own home — a place where they should feel secure and be able to live with peace and dignity."

"The million victims do not include the millions more who are attacked on the streets or bled by heartless con men."

Hartigan noted that earlier hearings in Chicago, Belleville and Champaign had made it clear these crimes flourish because they exist "under a cloak of secrecy much the same as child abuse and domestic violence did in the past."

As a result, Hartigan said, most police departments know elder abuse is a problem but they cannot document the number or the source of abuse cases. In a third of the departments surveyed, police were unaware

of state laws designed to protect elderly citizens.

"If we can provide the necessary legislation and education and outreach programs, only then can the criminal justice system begin to curb the growing epidemic of crimes against the elderly."

Hartigan recommended at least two new criminal statutes be enacted by the Illinois Legislature.

One he termed "criminal neglect of an incapacitated adult" which would apply to a relative or paid caretaker who fails to provide basic care for the victim.

Hartigan told the Senate committee that, because of legislation he initiated, his office has already been successful in combating home repair fraud, but other types of fraud continue against the elderly, including insurance fraud, investment opportunity fraud, health fraud and quackery.

To illustrate his point, Hartigan persuaded a downstate con man who had sent to jail in 1983 to appear and tell how he targeted elderly Illinois farmers and successfully swindled them out of \$1.5 million in insurance scams.

The man, wearing a hood to disguise his identity, agreed to testify before the Senate committee how he set up and swindled the millions. The man is now out on parole.

In addition to the ex-convict, Hartigan told the story of a 74-

year-old Chicago amputee whose own daughter cashed his \$1,138 a month Social Security and retirement benefits but left him naked and malnourished in a filthy, unchanged bed.

In another case an East St. Louis woman died of neglect in the home of her daughter and grandchildren because a local police lieutenant dismissed complaints as simply "a family problem with Granny."

Hartigan went on to detail a case his office has just filed against a Rockford stockbroker charging him with bilking four elderly women clients of \$400,000 even though the broker had a joint income with his wife of more than \$200,000 a year.

In addition to tougher criminal laws, Hartigan pointed to a need for mandatory reporting of abuse, neglect and other warning signs because "many elderly victims may be reluctant or too scared to come forward on their own behalf."

Hartigan said medical personnel and law enforcement officers and social service workers should be required to report such instances of abuse.

An existing agency, the Illinois Department on Aging, would become the clearinghouse for such information if mandatory reporting is implemented.

Hartigan also suggested that remedies in the state's domestic violence laws covering battered women should be made more applicable to elderly victims.

A draft of these and other proposals to combat crimes against the elderly is expected to be submitted to the Illinois General Assembly when it convenes in January.

By Helen Robinson
Staff affiliate

BELEVILLE — It's the devilish little presence that doesn't ring the door bell, though it might rattle the windows before stealing into your home.

The cold winter wind is out there, and seemingly its only mission is to get inside. But there are ways to keep out Jack Frost, and all the discomforts he brings with him.

The number of products to keep out the cold has grown by leaps and bounds from years passed. It's no longer an era of stuffing newspapers under door frames and hanging thicker curtains in windows.

Manufacturers of insulation products finally have recognized the needs of homeowners. And with more and more families buying and/or renting older homes, there has been a surge in products.

Without tearing down walls and door frames, said Marion Baker, manager of Thomas Hardware in O'Fallon.

"Older homes with large cracks under windows have deteriorating walls and door frames that need better insulation," Baker said. "So, there are a lot of good cavity fillers out."

Cavities are cracks running along windows and doors where the cold has created a path over the years. Cavity fillers are popular with renters who really don't want to spend the money on full-blown repairs.

"You can get a can of spray cavity filler that comes out like

shaving cream," Baker said. "When it dries, it's like a Styrofoam and it's very well. And it will keep the heat in during the winter and the heat out during the summer."

Baker said there are many different brands; the average cost is about \$5.

For loose-fitting windows, there are plenty of window seals. Covering windows with plastic is a popular way to avoid drafts evenly. The plastic comes in sheets of varying thickness. The thicker the plastic, the more it costs. Though window coverings are really new, there are some new forms out.

One brand of plastic covering is taped loosely around the frame of a window, and then tightened with hot air from a blow dryer.

"This is quick and easy," Baker said. "And just about anyone could put it in. You don't have to mess with trying to tighten each side evenly. It pops into place when it gets blown dry."

Plastic is the most aesthetic way to insulate. Though it isn't good insulation as such, say, fiberglass, it will hold the heat in and keep most of the cold out.

A big problem is encountered when a house has storm windows, said Don Daenzer, a Belleville housing inspector.

"The lack of sufficient storm windows and lack of caulking around prime windows are major places homes lose heat," Daenzer said. "Also, if the attic is not well insulated, you will

lose heat through the top of the house. Since heat rises, you can spend a lot of money heating and just letting it escape."

Fiberglass insulation in the attic is the best way to save both heat and money during the winter months. And don't forget you'll also save money in the summer as insulation helps keep air-conditioned air in.

"There's no doubt that what you spend on insulation, you'll save in heating bills," Daenzer said. "There are plenty of little things you can do to insulate that won't cost too much."

There are some other things you might want to check:

Weather-stripping at the bottom of doors should provide a tight fit between door and frame. Weather-stripping strips are metal or rubber, and can be attached to the door with screws. The rubber strip drags the ground and locks out the wind at the bottom of the door.

These range in price from \$5 to \$15, depending on the type of material used.

Fiberglass stripping around pipes keeps water from freezing and helps to cut down energy costs. Any exposed pipes, such as those in the basement, should be covered with fiberglass and be covered with fiberglass and tape.

Caulking is a good final insulator. If the windows are still a bit loose after plastic has been put in place around them, run some caulking along the frame. It simply rolls out and is spread into place, much like caulking around the bath tub.

Disability benefit process sometimes slow

The following is by Oliver M. Holmes, district manager of the U.S. Social Security Office.

Applications for disability benefits often take longer to process than do applications for other types of Social Security claims; therefore, you are urged to gather the necessary information before you apply.

Determining disability under the law requires both medical and employment evidence, and the determination may become complicated.

The findings must show that the applicant has a physical or mental impairment that is expected to prevent him or her from working for at least a year, or is expected to result in death.

Generally, there is a five-month waiting period before benefits may be paid; however, you should apply as soon as you become disabled to make certain that the claim is processed in time for benefits to begin with the sixth full month of disability.

The following information should be available when you apply for disability benefits:

• Your Social Security number

• Date last worked

• Date sickness began or injury occurred

• Nature of illness or injury

• Dates and places of treatment, including names, addresses and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals, institutions or clinics

• Military service serial number and VA claim number if

medical care was received in a military service or Veterans Administration hospital

• The kinds of jobs held the last 15 years before disability began

• Social Security numbers and dates of birth of spouse and minor children

However, do not delay applying for benefits even if all the information is not immediately available.

Help will continue for utility payments

More than 75,000 low-income households will continue to receive help at a reduced rate in January due to a plan initiated by Gov. James R. Thompson.

At his suggestion, the Illinois Commerce Commission contacted utility companies, requesting their cooperation in voluntarily extending until the Legislature reassembles Jan. 9, the Illinois Affordable

Payment Plan, commonly known as the 12 Percent Plan, which caps the rate of increase for winter utility bills at 12 percent of their income.

House Majority Leader Jim McPike of Alton has been appointed to a 10-member task force to address options for the long-term funding of energy assistance programs.

Easter Seal Society plans move

Since 1950 the Easter Seal Society of Southwestern Illinois has provided direct services to children and adults with disabilities.

In 1976 the local Society purchased an office building at 756 Central Ave. in Alton. Now, plans are being made to sell that building and acquire a larger facility in the Alton area.

Currently, the Easter Seal provides speech-language therapy, durable medical equipment services, an educational and vocational program for adults with learning disabilities, counseling, a developmental play therapy program for pre-schoolers, information and referral services in addition to administration and fund raising.

During the past year, over 1,400 persons were served.

Along with program growth during the past decade, the Alton area has increased from two persons to 10.

The Society also operates satellite programs in Granite City and Belleville with a program staff of three additional persons.

Carol Wilke Nudo, executive director of the Society, said, "The support of individuals, organizations and businesses has helped us to expand services to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities; and now we need to obtain additional space to accommodate the growth."

At the direction of the board, the Society is planning a capital drive to finance part of the new

facility.

Shortly, a "for sale" sign will appear on the building while the Society actively pursues other locations for consideration.

Nudo said, "Our current center has been our home for several years; however a new facility will enable us to do much more."

"Plans call for a minimum of 6,000 square feet of fully-accessible space with more flexibility for therapy and vocational programming."

Persons interested in helping with the project are being encouraged to call the Easter Seal Center at 462-8897.

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THREE UNFURNISHED ROOMS, pet friendly, rent \$275.00. Call 452-7026.

UPSTAIRS: 2 bedroom, recently remodeled, pet friendly, security light, back deck, off street parking, and storage. Call 452-7026.

VERY CLEAN Unfurnished room, no pets, references. Call 452-7026.

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